ALL OF THE POWER. NONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY

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LONE STAR

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SCARLET SPIDER

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#7 "THE SECOND MASTER, PART 1"

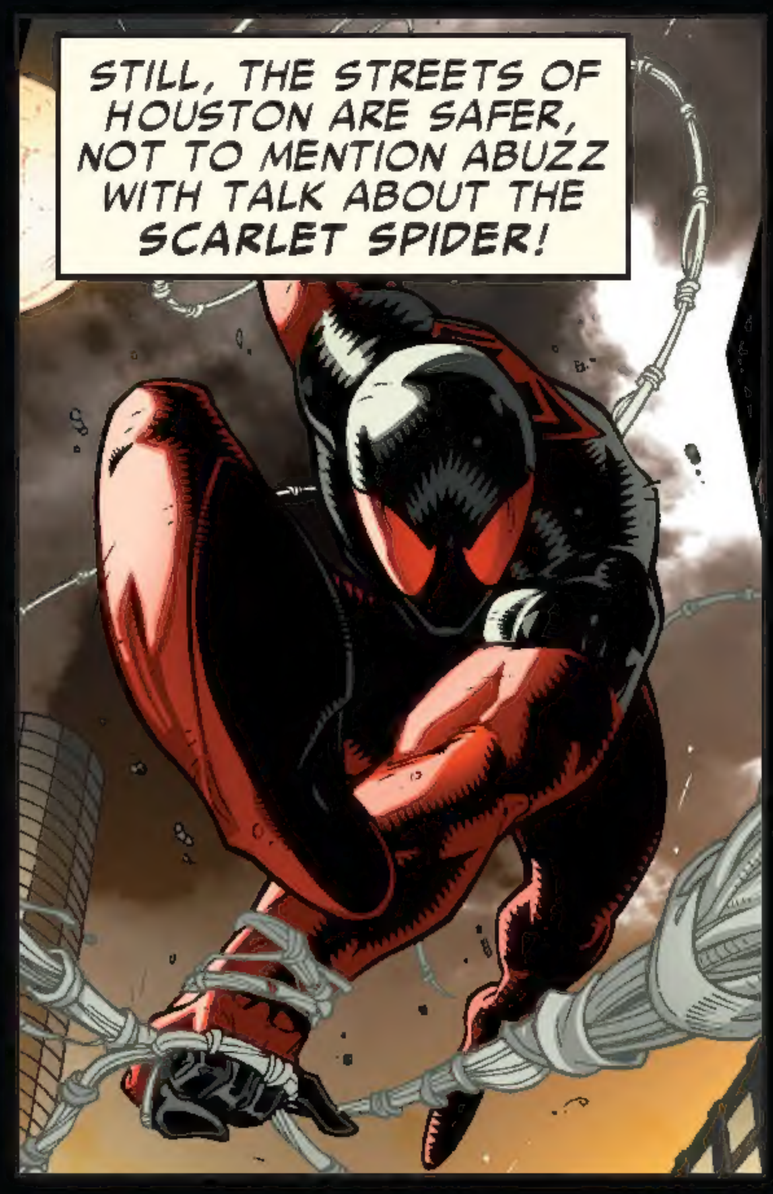
Kaine was a lab experiment gone wrong, a genetic clone of Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man. Dying from the day he was created, Kaine lived a life of violence and villainy until Spider-Man cured him, giving him a second chance at life. Kaine now tries to live up to his legacy as the…

SCARLET SPIDER

PREVIOUSLY…

ON HIS WAY TO MEXICO, KAINE FOUND HIMSELF IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, WITH A NEW COSTUME, NEW POWERS, AND A NEW ATTITUDE. WHILE THERE, HE BROKE UP A HUMAN TRAFFICKING RING…

…AND RESCUED A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED ARACELY, A MYSTERIOUS YOUNG WOMAN WITH PSYCHIC ABILITIES, WHO HE SOON TOOK UNDER HIS WING. HE THEN DECIDED TO STAY IN HOUSTON.



AND THOUGH KAINE HAS TRIED TO FORGET HIS PAST AND LEAD A NEW LIFE AS A HERO, THE ENEMIES HE HAS MADE HAVE NOT BEEN SO FORGIVING.

The Gulf Of Mexico.

FIVE MILES OFF THE COAST OF GALVESTON, TEXAS.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

BOOM!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

THE DRILL SNAPPED! THE CASING COLLAPSED AT THIRTEEN FIVE, BUT THE POCKET WAS EXPOSED!

I TOLD THEM! THIS ISN'T OIL, THE PRESSURE IS TOO GREAT!

THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN, WE CAN'T CONTAIN THIS, IT'S NOT THE SAME--OH, GOD.

DEAR SWEET LORD.

FORGIVE US.

Forgive us.

ROXXON

ROXXON

Downtown Houston.
NOW.
MY NAME IS KAINE, AND I AM GOING TO DIE IN THIS CITY.
I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT HUMIDITY WAS, BUT I WAS WRONG. I WAS SO WRONG.
HOUSTON IS VIETNAM-LEVEL HOT.
IT'S LIKE I'M WEB-SWINGING THROUGH *STEAM*.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW. FIGHT CRIME, I GUESS.
MAN, THAT SOUNDS STUPID.
PAF!
KRSH!
HUH. I *THINK* THAT WAS A MISSILE.
THAT'S REALLY--

UNICORN

KRAKOOM!

HOLY @#$%, THAT WAS CLOSE.

A THOUSAND POUNDS OF FLAMING STEEL AND CONCRETE ALMOST TOOK OFF MY HEAD.

MOMENTS LIKE THAT I WISH I STILL HAD MY "SPIDER-SENSE."

I'D HATE TO BE...HUH. I'D HATE TO BE THE POOR SUCKERS...

...DOWN THERE.

THE ONES THAT ARE ALL ABOUT TO DIE.

DAMMIT.

HOLY!

RUN!

TWHIP!

TWHIP!

CHOOM!

OH MY--

AAAHH!

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT WORKED, NEVER TRIED ANYTHING LIKE--

AAAAAHHH!

WHAT THE HELL--?

IF I WASN'T ALREADY DEAF FROM THE EXPLOSION, HER SCREAMS WOULD FINISH THE JOB.

SHE MUST BEEN ON THE TOP FLOOR...

AAAHH!

AAAHH! AAAHHH!

HEY! HEY! ARE YOU OKAY?!

OH, GOD. OH, GOD. I-- I--

YOU'RE... YOU SAVED...

YEAH, IT'S A MIRACLE. I SAVED YOU. WHAT HAPPENED UP--

HRMPH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU SAVED ME...

I--

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE... PLEASE...

SHE DOESN'T STOP.

I DON'T EITHER.

THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE.

...MMM.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.

AND I DON'T KNOW YOURS. BUT I KNOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE, AT THE BUILDING?

I DON'T KNOW...IT WAS ALL A BLUR AFTER I FIRED THE FIRST ROCKET.

WAIT... WHAT?

NOK NOK NOK!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU FIRED THE ROCKET?

MY NAME IS ZOE, BY THE WAY.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR.

NOK NOK NOK!

OPEN THE DAMN DOOR!

WELL, DON'T ANSWER IT!

DID YOU BLOW UP THAT BUILDING?!

WELL... YES. I THOUGHT YOU WERE THERE FOR THE SAME REASON.

WHAT?! WHY WOULD I BE THERE FOR THAT?!

I...I THOUGHT YOU CAME BECAUSE OF GALVESTON.

HANG ON, I HAVE TO GET THIS.

WHY IS MY LIFE LIKE THIS?

HI.

The Four Seasons. DOWNTOWN HOUSTON

STAY OUT OF IT

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS

I DON'T CARE

I DON'T CARE

I DON'T CARE

KAINE!

BOOM!

ARACELY?!

WILL YOU GO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT ALREADY?!

I CAN'T SLEEP WITH ALL YOUR NOT CARING!

I HATE THAT SHE CAN READ MINDS

Downtown.
1:00 A.M.

Zoe's Apartment.

HUH

LAST TIME I WAS HERE, THERE WAS FURNITURE AND A GIRL

SOMEONE SWEPT THE PLACE, AND FAST

OKAY

FOURTEEN HOURS AGO, THE TOP OF ROXXON TOWER EXPLODED

BUT AN HOUR FROM NOW, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IT

ROXXON

ROXXON
HUH

Montrose, Houston.

THE HOME OF DR. DONALD MELAND AND OFFICER WALLY LAYTON.

SNNRRRRxX!

SNNRRRRxX!

DONALD... DONALD! TURN OVER!

+SNORT!+

SOMEBODY...

...PLEASE KILL ME.

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

WHA--

--AAAAH!

I'VE BEEN DEAD. TRUST ME...LIFE IS BETTER.

I NEED EVERYTHING THE HOUSTON POLICE HAVE ON A COMPANY CALLED ROXXON.

IT WAS A GAS LEAK. IT WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS.

AND THE NEWSPAPERS. AND THE INTERNET. HAVE YOU HEARD OF GOOGLE?

I DON'T USE COMPUTERS.

WHAT ARE YOU, AMISH?

WILL YOU JUST LOOK IT UP?

OKAY, ACCORDING TO THE *HOUSTON P.D.*, CROSS-REFERENCED WITH THE *HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT*, THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION AT ROXXON TOWER WAS...WAIT FOR IT... *A GAS LEAK.*

AND THERE'S NO MENTION OF A *MISSILE?*

WHAT? NO!

WHAT IS ALL THIS ABOUT? ROXXON HAS BEEN THE BACKBONE OF HOUSTON FOR DECADES. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY JOBS THEY PROVIDE?

IS THERE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN ROXXON AND SOMETHING CALLED *GALVESTON?*

AND WHAT'S A *"GALVESTON"?*

-SIGH-

YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT HOUSTON.

Roxxon Tower.
7:12 A.M.
ROXXON
Jacob Johnston
NEXT! KEEP IT MOVING!
WELCOME TO THE FUTURE... THE ROXXON ENERGY CORPORATION... FOR LIFE...
--WHAT ABOUT NEXT WEEKEND?
SORRY, JAKE...
ROXXON
RETINAL SCAN CONFIRMED.
FINGERPRINT ID CONFIRMED.
TURN AROUND...
LOG IN, JOHNSTON, JACOB.
VOICE ID CONFIRMED.
GOOD MORNING, JACOB.
THE COMPUTER IS LYING, JACOB.
AAAH!

THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE A GOOD MORNING.

@#$%!
@#$%!
@#$%!

NO ALARMS.
BUT... BUT YOU'RE A SUPER HERO...
DOES IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE WITH A SUPER HERO RIGHT NOW? DO YOU FEEL SAFE?

SHUNK

N-- NO...
SMART. NOW...
...I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT ROXXON'S OIL RIG.
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF--

THE ONE THAT EXPLODED OFF THE COAST OF GALVESTON A FEW MONTHS AGO.
YOU'VE HEARD OF GALVESTON, RIGHT?

I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO ALL--

I DON'T CARE.

I'M PULLING UP ALL THE SECURE FILES...

WAIT, IS THIS FOR REAL? ROXXON HAS A LOCATION ON *MARS?*

I'M JUST AN I.T. GUY...

THAT ONE. GALVESTON.

OPEN THEM.

GALVESTON

I CAN'T!

WHO CAN?

ONLY MISTER WALSH HAS *THAT* KIND OF ACCESS.

WHO'S *WALSH?*

HE'S *C.E.O.* OF ROXXON.

SECURITY OVERRIDE IN PROGRESS.

OH, GOD... WAIT, I'M NOT--

PRIVATE SECURITY WITH MACHINE GUNS

KILL THEM BOTH.

GUESS THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ESCORTING ME OUT

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

AIEEE!

THIS IS MY ELEMENT. THIS I UNDERSTAND.

SHOOT HIM!

STRAIGHTFORWARD BLACK AND WHITE

THERE'S NO MYSTERY HERE

THEY TRY TO KILL ME.

AND I DO WORSE TO THEM.

AAAHH!

AAIEEE!

KRROOM!

THWIP!

MMPH!

UHN!

THOK!

KRACK!

HT!

I'M LOOKING FOR DAVID WALSH.

WHERE MIGHT I FIND HIM?

TOP FLOOR.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE, MR. WALSH.

ARE YOU WORRIED, MISTER ROBBINS?

DOING MY JOB.

YOU DIE, I DON'T GET PAID.

HEH. THIS CONTRACT REQUIRES MY IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

SHOOM

WALSH.

YOUR NEXT MEETING IS HERE.

YOU'RE TRESPASSING.

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED... AMONG OTHERS.

YOU'RE COVERING UP AN ATTACK ON YOUR BUILDING. YOU MADE A WOMAN DISAPPEAR.

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHY.

I TOLD THE AUTHORITIES THAT THE EXPLOSION WAS THE RESULT OF A GAS LEAK TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT.

AND TO PREVENT THE "WOMAN" YOU SPEAK OF FROM GOING TO PRISON.

SINCE THE LOSS OF HER MOTHER, MY DAUGHTER HERE HAS BEEN... EMOTIONAL.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

WAIT, YOUR... DAUGHTER?

ZOE?

AND HOW EXACTLY DO YOU THINK *THAT'S* GOING TO HAPPEN?

HEY!

YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO BACK OFF RIGHT NOW, SON...

YOUNG MAN, THIS IS ROXXON. WE ARE THE LARGEST COMPANY IN THE WORLD, WITH REVENUE OVER 500 BILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR.

WE EMPLOY OVER 100,000 PEOPLE IN 28 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE.

I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

THIS IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN. YOU SHOULD LEAVE, BEFORE THINGS ESCALATE.

...BEFORE

The Rangers

MAKE YOU.

#8 "THE SECOND MASTER, PART 2"

The Gulf Of Mexico.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

A ROXXON ENERGY CORPORATION OFFSHORE DRILLING RIG.

MISTER WALSH...YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...WE *COULDN'T* HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR--

YOU'RE FIRED.

YOU, BEHIND HIM... YOU'RE LEAD SCIENTIST NOW.

I--YES, SIR.

I TAKE IT BY THE FACT THAT YOU'RE NOT *DEAD* THAT YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN IT?

YES, SIR. THE MAGNETIC FIELD--

THAT *WORKED?*

THEN WHY WAS THERE AN EXPLOSION? I'VE GOT MY P.R. PEOPLE SPINNING LIKE--

THE MAGNETIC FIELD DIDN'T WORK.

THEN WHAT CONTAINED IT?

ONE OF THE WORKERS, SIR.

BOB KYLE.

IT'S... IT'S *INSIDE* OF HIM, SIR.

Roxxon Tower.
NOW.
THE GIRL'S GOT SOME KIND OF FIRE POWERS. THAT'S POPULAR.
BUT YOU CAN SEE THE SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS ON HER FACE.
Bonita Juarez, a.k.a. Firebird.
THE ONE MADE OF ELECTRICITY. HE'S ON EDGE. NOT A LOT OF EXPERIENCE, I'M GUESSING
THAT MEANS HE'S GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE
Miguel Santos, a.k.a Living Lightning.
THE THING IN THE SPACE SUIT...I SERIOUSLY HOPE THAT'S A MASK.
BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT LOOKS PISSED
Fifty-One, True Name Unknown.
AND THE MOUSTACHE WITH THE HAT, SPINNING AROUND OUT THERE LIKE AN IDIOT... HE STINKS OF ARROGANCE.
I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO LAY DOWN ON THE FLOOR NOW WITH YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD, HONEY.
Drew Daniels, a.k.a. The Texas Twister.

ELSE I'M GONNA HAVE TO SHOOT YOU.

Victoria Star, a.k.a. Shooting Star.

William Talltrees, a.k.a. Red Wolf.

INDIVIDUALLY, NONE OF THEM WOULD BE A PROBLEM, NOT EVEN THE BLONDE WITH THE GUNS OR THE HALF-NAKED GUY WITH THE WOLF SKIN.

TOGETHER, HOWEVER, THEY'RE A BIG COMPLICATION.

I LEFT NEW YORK TO GET *AWAY* FROM ALL THE *SUPER HEROES*

ROXXON WISHES TO COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE HERE...

BE SILENT! DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE HERE TO *HELP* ROXXON.

THE GIRL WITH THE SIX-SHOOTERS STARTS RAMBLING ON ABOUT SOMETHING. DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THERE'S ANY LOVE LOST BETWEEN THESE GUYS AND ROXXON

MAYBE WALSH BOUGHT THEM. MAYBE THEY'RE STICKLERS FOR THE RULES

David Walsh, Roxxon C.E.O.

DOESN'T MATTER, I NEED TO GET CLEAR OF ALL OF THEM.

Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah

GRAB ZOE, GET SOME ANSWERS.

Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah

Zoe Walsh, Daughter of David Walsh.

I NEED TO HANDLE THIS DELICATELY

--JUST SAYING, IF YOU REALLY ARE A HERO, THIS ISN'T HOW WE DO THINGS. YOU NEED TO GET YOUR @#$% TOGETHER, "SCARLET SPIDER," AND--

NO!

MY NAME IS KAINE

AND THIS IS AS DELICATE AS I GET.

YOU CRAZY--

I'VE GOT YOU, STAR!

RANGERS!

TAKE THAT BASTARD DOWN!

WHAM!

UHN!

BE *GRATEFUL.* IF HE WERE STILL AMONG US, MY WOLF WOULD HAVE TORN OUT YOUR *THROAT* BY NOW!

IS THAT HIM ON YOUR HEAD? BECAUSE I--

OH, CR--

SHRACK!

STAND DOWN!

PWOOSH!

DO NOT MAKE US *HURT* YOU.

¡AY!

C'MON, ZOE.

WAIT... WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU--?

AAAIIEE!

YOU'VE GOT THE SHOT?

YEP.

TAKE IT.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!

NO KIDDING.

WHY ARE THEY SHOOTING AT US?!

ZING ZING ZING

OH GODOH GODOHGOD OHGOD...

WILL YOU SHUT UP?!

FWASH!

WHERE DID--

AAAHHHH!

SURRENDER.

SEND IN SOMEBODY SERIOUS AND I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, PRINCESS.

YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF, THEN.

FIFTY-ONE...STOP HIM.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO SC-- HNN!

SCARLET?! ARE YOU OKAY?!

IN...IT'S IN MY HEAD...

OUT!

AAAHHH!

!

SPLOTCH!

AAAH!

KRA-KOOOM!

YEARRRGH!

WHOLE BODY'S ON FIRE, LIKE I JUST GOT HIT BY LIGHTNING

EVERYTHING I CAN DO NOT TO BLACK OU--

AAAH!

@#$%! I BLACKED OUT

THWIP!

?

WAAA!

SNAG

AIIEE!

SHUT! UP!

BONITA?

I STRIVE TO BE A GODLY WOMAN. BUT I DO NOT LIKE THAT MAN.

WELL, I GUESS WE CAN CONFIRM THAT'S *NOT* SPIDER-MAN. ARE YOU OKAY?

I WILL BE.

QUE?

WHERE DID HE GO?

ANYTHING?

KRACK!

I LOST HIM, TOO.

FIFTY-ONE, CAN YOU GET A READ ON HIM?

HE THINKS THEY MAY BE OUT OF RANGE.

DAMMIT!

GOD, HE'S CREEPY.

C'MON, RANGERS, LET'S MOVE OUT.

SUPER HEROES

"HE...WAS TRESPASSING?"

ROXXON

TRESPASSING, ASSAULT, CORPORATE ESPIONAGE...

THIS ISN'T *DIFFICULT*, OFFICERS. ROXXON IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE ANY SECURITY FOOTAGE WE HAVE.

THANK YOU, MISTER WALSH.

I JUST, UH...I'M JUST SURPRISED. SCARLET SPIDER HAS BEEN *REALLY* HELPFUL, AND--

AND HAS ROXXON NOT BEEN HELPFUL TO THE CITY OF HOUSTON?

SOMEONE BREAKS IN HERE, A HERO, COULD BE HE HAD A REASON, WALSH.

ROXXON PROVIDES JOBS, YEAH, BUT DON'T THINK ANYONE BELIEVES YOU'RE ON THE SIDE OF THE *ANGELS*.

NEED I REMIND YOU THAT HE *KIDNAPPED MY DAUGHTER?!*

SCARLET SPIDER IS THE *VILLAIN* HERE, RANGER.

NOT *ROXXON*.

Minute Maid Park.

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, ZOE?!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

PLEASE... I ALMOST DIED...I NEED YOU...

YOU'RE @#$%&*# UNBALANCED! YOU NEED TO BE COMMITTED!

DON'T SAY THAT! I'M NOT CRAZY. I'M NOT.

AND WHAT THE HELL, WALSH IS YOUR FATHER? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I KNOW! HE'S AN EVIL MAN! I GREW UP LISTENING, HEARING ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS HE DID... MY DADDY, HE...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA! I HAD TO DO SOMETHING!

MY FATHER OWNS THE POLICE IN HOUSTON!

THEN CALL THE POLICE! LEAVE AN ANONYMOUS TIP OR SOMETHING, DON'T FIRE OFF A ROCKET IN THE MIDDLE OF DOWNTOWN!

...

WHAT IS ROXXON DOING IN GALVESTON?

I CAN TAKE YOU THERE, I CAN SHOW YOU. AND YOU CAN STOP IT.

PLEASE... YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.

THIS IS INSANE

BUT IT'S WHAT HEROES DO RIGHT?

WHAT A JOKE CAN'T EVEN WEB-SWING TO GALVESTON IT'S TOO-

HUH. NICE BIKE

"THEY WERE HERE."

Minute Maid Park.

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER.

YOU SURE, BILLY?

THE GIRL'S PERFUME IS TERRIBLE.

NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE. LISTEN TO THE POLICE TALK, THIS SPIDER FELLOW IS THE ANSWER TO ALL THEIR *PRAYERS*.

THE YOUNG KID, RODRIGUEZ... HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT THE WHOLE DAMN CITY WOULD HAVE BLOWN UP IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM.

ARE YOU KIDDING? HE THREW ME THROUGH A *WINDOW*, DREW.

RIGHT AT *ME*. HE THREW YOU INTO MY ARMS.

WE ALL KNOW WHAT ROXXON *IS*, FACT THAT NO ONE'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO PROVE IT DOESN'T CHANGE *ANYTHING*.

FIFTY-ONE IS CORRECT...THE WALSH GIRL IS OUR *PRIORITY*.

BUT THERE IS A *DARKNESS* IN THIS "*SCARLET SPIDER*" THAT DISTURBS ME.

KRACK!

AN ALARM JUST WENT OFF AT A ROXXON FACILITY IN GALVESTON, RIGHT ON THE GULF COAST.

IT'S GOTTA BE HIM.

Roxxon Tower.

"MISTER WALSH!"

IS *HE* THERE?

PERIMETER ALARMS DIDN'T GO OFF UNTIL HE WAS ALREADY INSIDE.

ENGAGE THE MECHSUITS.

SIR, THE MECHS--

THIS SCARLET SPIDER MAY BE THE SINGLE BIGGEST IDIOT ROXXON HAS EVER DEALT WITH. HE COULDN'T LOOK MORE GUILTY IF HE TRIED.

SO WHEN THE MECHS RIP OUT HIS SPINE AND USE HIS DAMN *SKULL* FOR A FOOTBALL, WE'LL HAVE BEEN WELL WITHIN OUR RIGHTS.

BUT, MISTER WALSH, HE HAS YOUR *DAUGHTER*...

ARE YOU NOT LISTENING TO ME, BOY? I WANT HIM DEAD.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS ON THE LINE HERE. IF MY *DAUGHTER*, OR THE *RANGERS*, OR THE *DEVIL* HIMSELF GETS IN THE WAY...

...I WILL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.

Roxxon Refinery 729.
GALVESTON, TEXAS.
UHNN...
HARTLE... GARY! RESPOND!
SOMEBODY PICK UP! WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING DOWN THERE?!
ZOE...
...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME *BODIES* OR SOMETHING.

THERE *AREN'T.*

OH GOD

FOR THIS INSANE GIRL, I TORE THROUGH ROXXON LIKE A MADMAN.

THE POLICE, THE RANGERS... THEY'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO HUNT ME DOWN. I'LL BE A FUGITIVE AGAIN.

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HERE IN HOUSTON, MY WHOLE *"SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE"*

SPIDER, I--

SHUT UP. I SWEAR TO GOD, IF YOU SAY ONE MORE WORD I WILL--

WIND. THERE'S WIND INSIDE.

DAMN.

WHOOSH!

WHAM!

IT'S OVER

WHAM!

ARROGANT.

FWOOOSH!

SELF-RIGHTEOUS.

ZZKKZK!

SOMETHING TO PROVE.

THAT'S HOW I DESCRIBED *THEM*.

IT'S ALL I CAN DO NOT TO LAUGH.

I'D RECOMMEND YOU STAY DOWN.

BUT I'M BEGGING YOU, SUGAR...

...DON'T.

SURVIVE. THAT'S ALL I CAN DO NOW.

CLOAK MYSELF. GET OUT. GET ARACELY. HEAD TO MEXI--

VHHHH!

FIFTY-ONE, WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU-- NO!

HOLY--

AAAHH!

KROOM!

EVERYONE... EVERYONE OKAY?

YOU GUYS... REALLY... SUCK...

HNN... FIFTY-ONE, WHAT DID YOU--?

NO.

HOLY-- LAB TEAM, PREP FOR EVAC! NOW!

WHAT THE HELL...

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

I'M GOING TO BE SICK... FIREBIRD...

THESE PEOPLE...THEY'RE ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN...ALL INDIGENOUS...

@#$%ING ROXXON...

BILLY... I WANT THOSE MEN. ALIVE.

THERE'S *SCREAMING.* I CAN HEAR *SCREAMING.*

SOMETHING IS WRONG.

LOOKS LIKE WE OWE YOU AN--

THE WOLF IS RIGHT.

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENING HERE. C'MON!

WHAM!

FREEZE, ALL YOU--

GOOD LORD.

AAAAHHHH! AHHHH!

NO...NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

IT'S RESISTING. THE BODIES WON'T CONTAIN IT ANY MORE...

AAA HH!

AHH

SHUT IT DOWN! WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING HERE, SHUT IT DOWN NOW!

IT'S... TOO...LATE... I CAN'T--

FWASH!

YOU GUYS, YOU CALL YOURSELF THE RANGERS...

SUPER HEROES, RIGHT?

YEP.

GOOD. THIS ONE'S ALL YOURS.

#9 "THE SECOND MASTER, PART 3"

The Historic Pleasure Pier
GALVESTON, TEXAS

DADDY, LOOK AT THE LIGHTS!

WHAT THE--?

CRASH

RUN!

AAAHH!

FOUR MILES AWAY. ROXXON REFINERY 729.

I'M GOING TO KILL PETER PARKER.

I'M GOING TO FIND EVERYONE WHO PUSHED ME INTO BEING A BETTER PERSON.

WHO URGED ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING, TO BE A HERO.

THEN I'M GOING TO KILL THEM. BECAUSE THIS?

THIS IS NOT WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR.

ROBOCARP!

ALL I DID WAS SAVE A GIRL FALLING OUT OF A BUILDING

MOVE!

AIIEE!

HHRRRAAA!

HOW THE HELL DOES *THAT* LEAD TO *THIS?*

I'LL TELL YOU HOW THE GIRL I SAVED, ZOE BLEW UP THE HEADQUARTERS OF **ROXXON**, BECAUSE THAT'S THE KIND OF LUCK I HAVE

EVIL CORPORATIONS, **WEIRD** EXPERIMENTS, SUPER HEROES **AND** ALIENS, FIGHTING GIANT **ENERGY** MONSTERS...

I ALMOST LAUGH HOW DO PEOPLE LIVE LIKE THIS? AND THEN I REMEMBER

THEY DON'T NOT FOR LONG

RUN!

LORD!

DEMON!

I WILL NOT LET YOU HARM ANOTHER SOUL, DO YOU HEAR ME?

I DO NOT FEAR YOUR FI--

FWASH

AAIEEE!

KRA-KOOM

NO!

AAAAHHH!

FIREBIRD! GO LIMP!

COME ON, RUN RUN RUN RUN, THIS IS NOT HAPPENING, I NEVER--

UHN!

WRONG ANSWER.

AAAH!

YOU. YOU WORK FOR ROXXON. YOU *DID* THIS.

TELL ME HOW TO *STOP* IT.

YOU...YOU CAN'T.

KOFF!

PLEASE...

CLK-CHAK

LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN, *SWEET THING.*

HOPEFULLY WE'LL LIKE YOUR ANSWERS BETTER *THIS* TIME.

WE GOT A READING.

"ONE OF OUR RIGS, IT FOUND SOMETHING, DEEPER THAN ANYONE HAD EVER GONE BEFORE.

"BUT IT WASN'T OIL. NOT GAS, OR CARBONATE...

"IT WAS *ENERGY.* NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT, AND TRUST ME... ROXXON HAS SEEN A *LOT.*

"A SELF-SUSTAINING ENERGY SOURCE THAT HAD BEEN UNDER THE EARTH'S CRUST FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.

"WALSH WANTED IT, SO WE DUG. EIGHTEEN OF OUR MEN DIED IN THE RESULTING EXPLOSION.

"SOMEONE...AT ONE POINT, SOMEONE NAMED IT MAMMON. LIKE WE'D DUG SO DEEP WE'D BREACHED THE BOWELS OF HELL ITSELF. MAYBE WE DID.

"WE THOUGHT OUR SCIENCE COULD CONTAIN IT, BUT, IN THE END, IT TOOK A *MAN.*"

"THIS THING, IT WAS ANCIENT. IT WAS SENTIENT. BUT IT NEEDED A VESSEL TO SUSTAIN IT. A *BODY.*

"AND THAT JUST MADE IT MORE VALUABLE TO WALSH. SO HE...HE...

"GOD HELP ME. HE BROUGHT US MORE TEST SUBJECTS.

"*PEOPLE.* FROM THE MEXICAN CARTELS, I THINK, I DIDN'T ASK.

"I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.

"BUT THEY KEPT BURNING OUT FASTER AND FASTER. MAMMON WAS *ADAPTING.* LIKE IT WAS WAKING UP."

...YOU'RE AN @%&$*&#.

IF I SURVIVE THIS, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU *DON'T.*

WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE UNLEASHED IT FROM THE OIL!

ORDERS, MR. WALSH?

FIND MY *DAUGHTER.* SHE NEEDS TO GO *BACK* TO THE *ASYLUM.*

AS TO THE *HEROES,* I TOLD THEM HOW STRONGLY I FELT ABOUT *TRESPASSING.*

KILL THEM *ALL.*

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA

AAIIEE!

UHN!

YEARGHH!

SHPUNK

ROARR!

AAIIIEEE--

FWOOSH

STILL ALIVE?

THANK YOU.

IF YOUR *WOLF* WAS HERE, WOULD IT *TEAR* THAT THING'S THROAT OUT, TOO?

HE WOULD *TRY.*

WHAT ARE YOU TWO, @#$%@&# BONDING?!

THE GUY THE *HOST*, OR WHATEVER

HE'S *BURNING OUT*, LIKE THE OTHER CORPSES WE SAW. MAMMON IS KILLING HIM.

DAMMIT

WHAT IS HE DOING?!

I DO NOT BELIEVE HE KNOWS.

I HAVE *NO* IDEA WHAT I'M DOING

NNYAAAAA!

SON OF A @#%*$ IT BURNS! WHAT THE HELL WAS I--

HNNN...

HE'S ALIVE

KREEEEEENNNNNAAAAAQ...

SAAAARRNNEEES...

BONITA'S BACK IN THE GAME, YOU OKAY DOWN HERE, SHOOTING STAR?

DOES IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE DOING OKAY?

IT'S GETTING BIGGER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LIGHTNING, WHAT--

FIFTY-ONE IS TRYING TO CONNECT TO ITS MIND! HE THINKS IT'S INTELLIGENT!

SSSSSSUBLLEEEENAAA...

XXEEEERRRNEELLL...

WHAT HAPPENED?!

HOW CAN IT BE TOO ALIEN FOR YOU?! YOU'RE AN ALIEN!

A NEW HOST? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU DID THIS! YOU KILLED THESE PEOPLE!

SOMEBODY KNOCK HER OUT!

SIR...

ENOUGH!

I HATE YOU!

THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE, ZOE...YOU WILL GO BACK TO YOUR DOCTOR, BACK ON YOUR MEDICATION...

NO! NO...DADDY, PLEASE...

HRRRRRR!

RANGERS, MOVE!

I SEE IT COMING, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT

ZOE.

LORD.

DADDY...

ZOE! GET DOWN!

SHAMM

AAAHHH!

mmnnmmm...

MAmmnn...

MAMMON.

OH, @#$%.

CURSING NOW? I LIKE YOU BETTER ALREADY.

NOTHING WE'VE BEEN THROWING AT THIS THING HAS MADE A DAMN *DENT*, AND IT'S GETTING *BIGGER* BY THE MINUTE.

ANYONE HAS A *PLAN*, NOW'S THE *TIME*.

WALSH *DESERVES* THIS. THE INNOCENT PEOPLE THIS THING IS GOING TO KILL DON'T

ROXXON KNEW, DAMN THEM. THEY KNEW THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE PULLED THIS THING OUT OF...OUT OF THE

OIL TANKS 4, 5

TORNADO-MAN, OR WHATEVER THE HELL YOUR NAME IS, YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE, GET THIS THING'S ATTENTION.

DISTRACT IT ANY WAY YOU CAN, DO YOU *HEAR* ME?

I HEAR YOU.

RANGERS!

LIGHT IT UP!

OHN!

THE SUN SHINES *BRIGHTLY*... IT IS A GOOD DAY TO *DIE*.

A GOOD DAY TO DIE?

NO SUCH THING

SSSS

AAAAAHHHH!

ROARRRRRR!!

GHOOM GHOOM GHOOM

WHAT... WHAT IS HE *DOING?!*

MAKING IT *MAD*. LEADING IT AWAY FROM *PEOPLE*.

BUT...BUT IT WILL *KILL HIM!* HE'LL DIE!

DARLIN'...

...THAT'S WHAT HEROES *DO*.

MAYBE IT CAME FOR ME.

THE DEVIL ITSELF, COME TO TAKE ME TO HELL FOR EVERYTHING I'VE DONE.

I DESERVE IT

YOU WANT ME, MONSTER?

COME AND GET ME!

THWIP THWIP

THAP THAP

AAAHHHHH!

THUD

GOD

...PLEASE DON'T LET ME DIE.

HOLY HANNAH.

FIFTY-ONE, YOU AND ME'LL CONTAIN THE FLAMES, EVERYONE ELSE--

WHAT DID HE *DO*?!

THE OIL... THE CREATURE CAN'T ESCAPE IT.

SCARLET SPIDER, HE *KNEW*.

"THE *OIL* IS CONTAINING MAMMON."

HE DID IT. LORD HAVE MERCY ON HIM, HE DID IT.

BONITA...

GOD OUR FATHER, YOUR POWER BRINGS US TO BIRTH, YOUR PROVIDENCE GUIDES OUR LIVES, AND BY YOUR COMMAND WE RETURN TO--

HEY!

YOU COULD HAVE TRIED LOOKING FOR ME BEFORE THE *EULOGY*.

Later.

THE RANGERS WERE ABLE TO PUT OUT THE FLAMES, AND ROXXON'S GROUND CREWS CONTAINED THE OIL THAT HELD MAMMON.

TEXAS TWISTER, WHO MIGHT HAVE THE WORST NAME EVER, SAID THEY'D TURN IT OVER TO S.H.I.E.L.D. OR THE AVENGERS OR SOMETHING. I STOPPED LISTENING.

WALSH WAS ALIVE, BUT SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH HIM. LIKE A BIT OF MAMMON WAS LEFT INSIDE OF HIM.

ZOE WOULDN'T LEAVE HIS SIDE AS THEY TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL. THIS MAN SHE TRIED SO HARD TO EXPOSE AND TAKE DOWN.

AND ROXXON... ROXXON COVERED IT UP.

THE PEOPLE THEY'D BEEN EXPERIMENTING ON, THE BODIES...EVERYTHING WAS GONE. BURNED OUT BY THE FIRE, THEY SAID.

THE FIRE FROM THE TANKS DIDN'T MAKE IT THAT FAR DOWN, I KNOW. I WAS THERE.

BUT I HAVE NO WAY TO PROVE IT, AND EVEN IF I DID, ROXXON PUT IT ALL ON WALSH.

UNBALANCED HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE FAMILY GONE ROGUE.

WHOEVER WALSH REPORTED TO, THEY'D MOVED ON WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF IT ALL GOING SOUTH.

HI, THERE. MY NAME IS TODD HAMILTON, ACTING CEO OF ROXXON. AND I JUST WANTED TO SAY...

HE STINKS OF MONEY

OF GREED

THE ENERGY MONSTER WAS NOTHING. THIS IS MAMMON.

...THANKS. THANKS FOR KEEPING ROXXON, AND AMERICA, SAFE.

IT'S EVERYTHING I CAN DO NOT TO BURN HIS FACE OFF.

"WE'LL STAY ON TOP OF ROXXON.

"EVENTUALLY, THEY'LL MESS UP AND WE'LL BE THERE."

REALLY? LIKE YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN THERE THE HUNDRED OTHER TIMES THEY'VE DONE EVIL @#$%?

I VAGUELY RECALL YOU SHOWING UP TO *STOP* ME FROM SHUTTING THEM DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THE INITIATIVE IS DONE. THE AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR? THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE ON THE MOON. WE'RE ALL THE SOUTHWEST HAS *GOT*.

AND NOW YOU'RE HERE. AS PART OF THE RANGERS, YOU CAN--

WHAM

UHN!

DREW!

UNBELIEVABLE!

IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO JOIN YOUR BOY SCOUT TROOP, YOU ARE *HIGH*.

I CAME DOWN HERE TO GET AWAY FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY! ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE? THEY'RE YOUR *RESPONSIBILITY* NOW. YOU MESS UP...

...IT'S ON *YOU!*

MORONS

GOING HOME. GOING TO GET ROOM SERVICE. GOING TO SLEEP. THEN I'M GOING TO FIND PETER PARKER AND *KILL HIM*.

RESPONSIBILITY

DAMMIT

The Houston Medical Center

DAYS LATER

"PLEASE WAKE UP. YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT."

WAKE UP, DADDY. I NEED YOU TO WAKE UP SO I CAN TELL YOU.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. ALL I EVER WANTED WAS FOR YOU TO KNOW I LOVED YOU...I NEEDED TO KNOW YOU LOVED ME.

AND YOU SHOWED ME. YOU SAVED ME.

YOUR LAWYERS, THEY SAY I'M IN CONTROL OF THE ESTATE NOW.

UNTIL YOU WAKE UP.

BECAUSE YOU *WILL* WAKE UP.

EVERYTHING YOU BUILT, EVERYTHING YOU DID... I KNOW NOW. YOU DID IT FOR ME.

AND I'M GOING TO USE IT ALL TO FIND HIM. HE DID THIS TO YOU, AND I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM PAY.

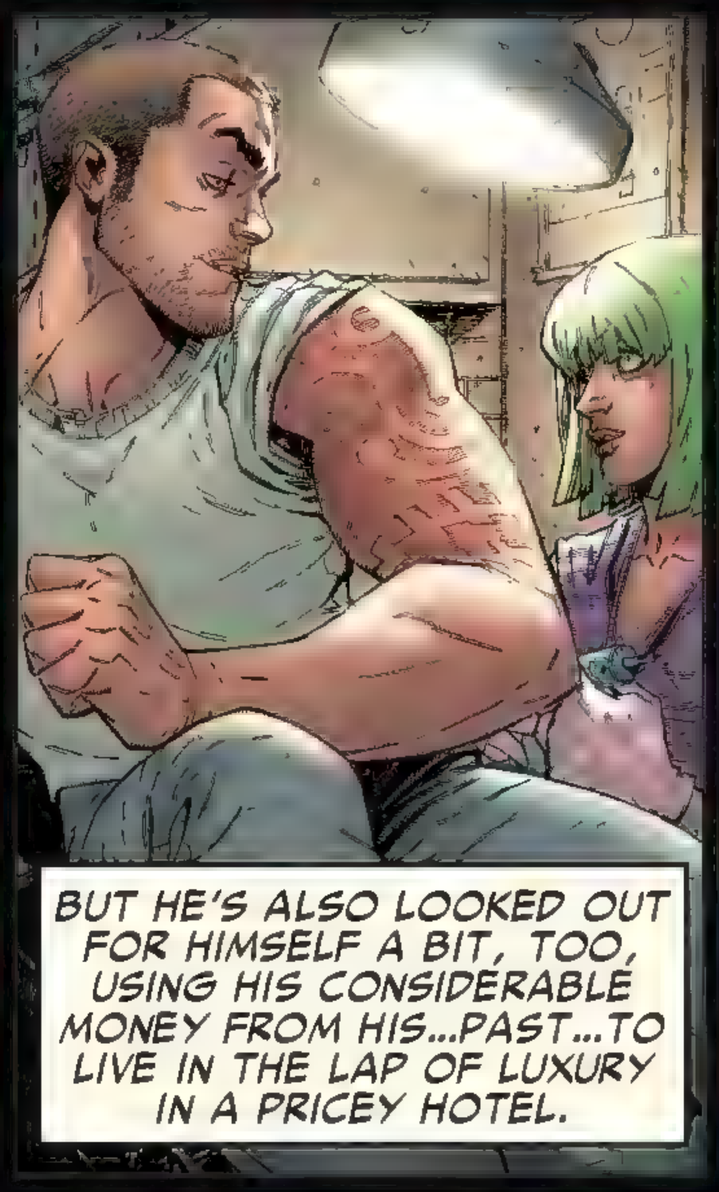
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND HIM.

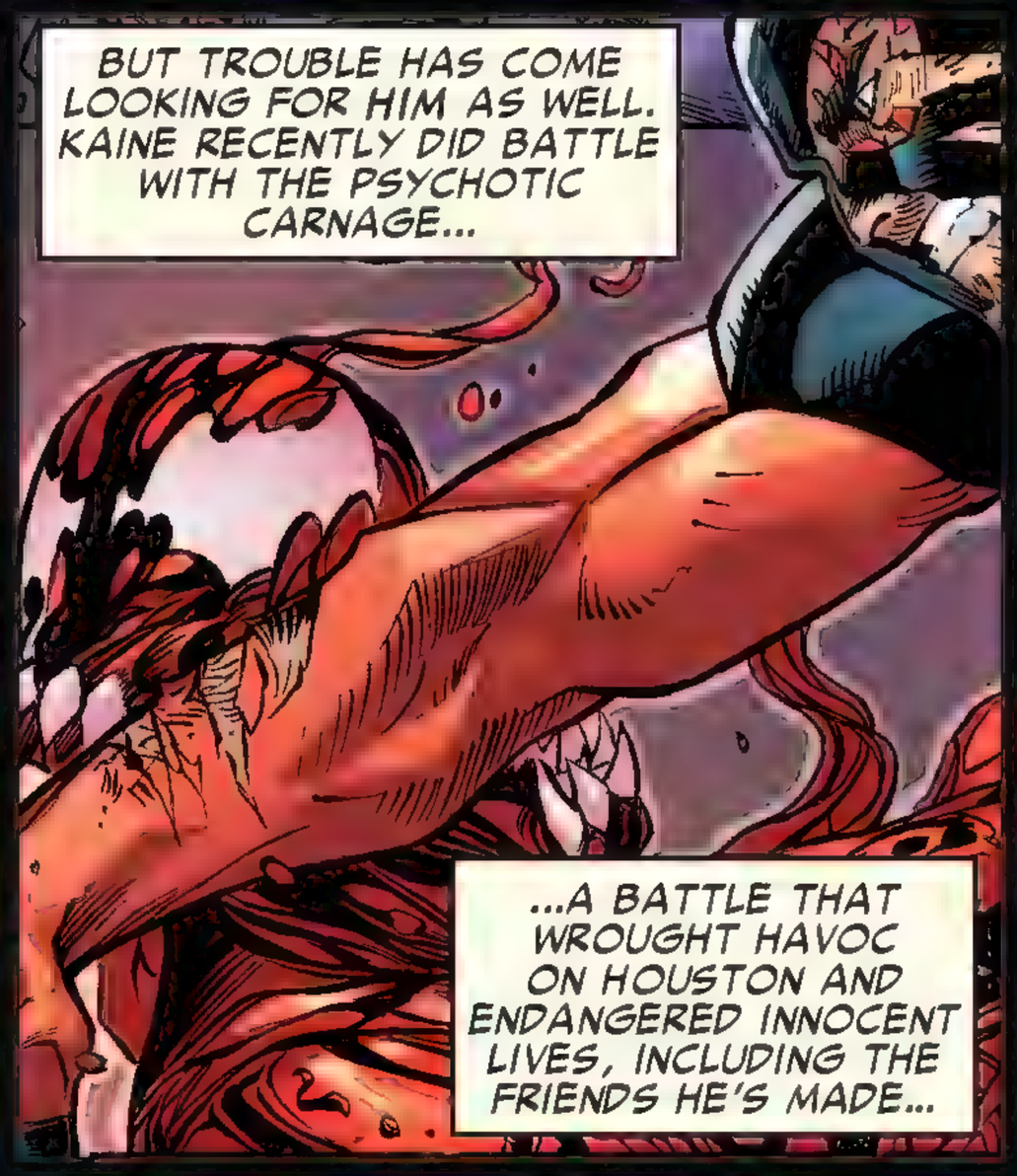
Continued in MINIMUM CARNAGE!

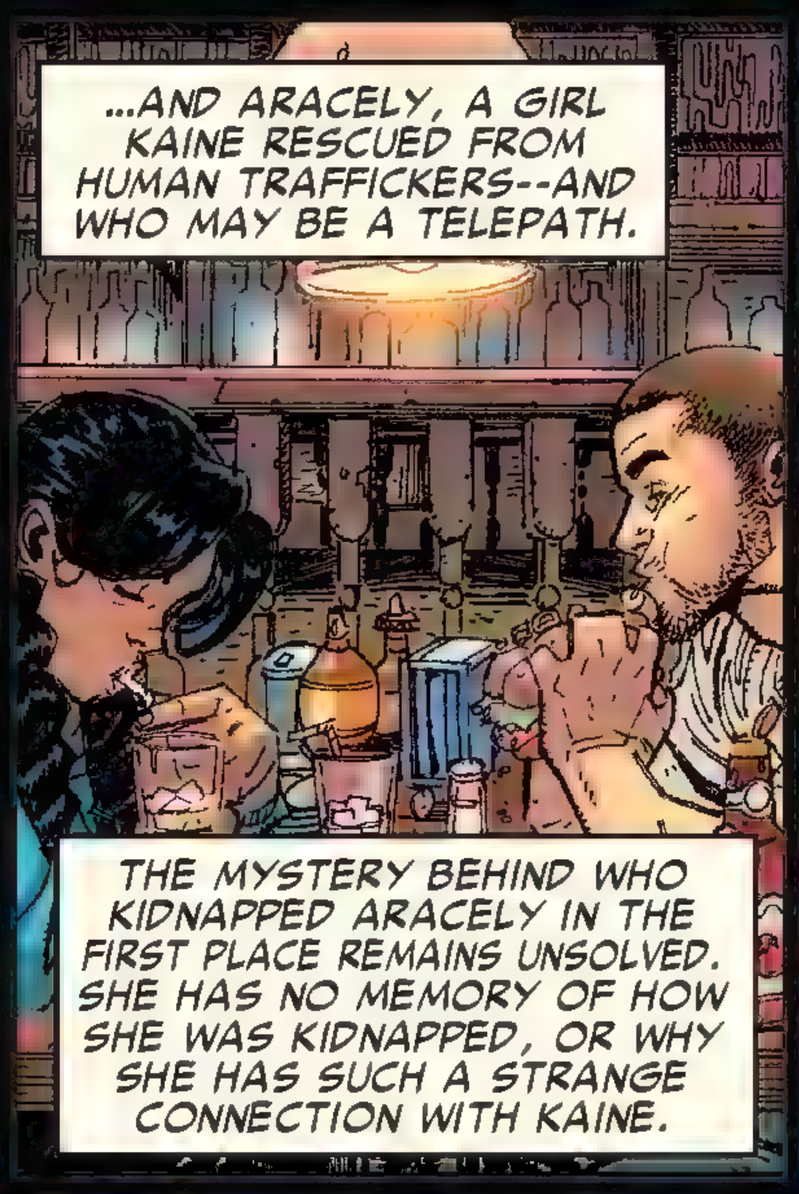
#12.1 "THE MARK"

Kaine was a lab experiment gone wrong, a genetic clone of Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man. Dying from the day he was created, Kaine lived a life of violence and villainy until Spider-Man cured him, giving him a second chance at life. Kaine now tries to live up to his legacy as the...

SCARLET SPIDER


BUT HE'S ALSO LOOKED OUT FOR HIMSELF A BIT, TOO, USING HIS CONSIDERABLE MONEY FROM HIS...PAST...TO LIVE IN THE LAP OF LUXURY IN A PRICEY HOTEL.


BUT TROUBLE HAS COME LOOKING FOR HIM AS WELL. KAINE RECENTLY DID BATTLE WITH THE PSYCHOTIC CARNAGE...
...A BATTLE THAT WROUGHT HAVOC ON HOUSTON AND ENDANGERED INNOCENT LIVES, INCLUDING THE FRIENDS HE'S MADE...


...AND ARACELY, A GIRL KAINE RESCUED FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKERS--AND WHO MAY BE A TELEPATH.
THE MYSTERY BEHIND WHO KIDNAPPED ARACELY IN THE FIRST PLACE REMAINS UNSOLVED. SHE HAS NO MEMORY OF HOW SHE WAS KIDNAPPED, OR WHY SHE HAS SUCH A STRANGE CONNECTION WITH KAINE.

〈HELP ME.〉

〈PLEASE, SOMEBODY...〉

TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.

HN!

〈PLEASE... PLEASE, I'M SORRY...〉

〈I'M SO SORRY!〉

〈IT WAS STUPID TO RUN.〉

〈YOU ARE MY PROPERTY. BY TRYING TO LEAVE, YOU STOLE FROM ME.〉

〈YOU HAVE DISHONORED YOURSELF, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...YOU HAVE DISHONORED YOUR FAMILY.〉

〈YOUR FATHER WAS PAID GOOD MONEY FOR YOU. NOW HE IS GOING TO DIE.〉

〈AS ARE YOUR MOTHER AND BABY BROTHER.〉

〈NO, PLEASE, I'LL DO ANYTHING...〉

〈OF COURSE YOU WILL.〉

〈I NEED YOU TO DELIVER A MESSAGE.〉

Houston, Texas.

SCARLET SPIDER!

I DON'T CRINGE AS MUCH AS I USED TO WHEN I HEAR THE NAME. I DIDN'T PICK IT, JUST LIKE I DIDN'T PICK THIS LIFE.

INSTEAD OF DRINKING MARGARITAS ON THE BEACH IN MEXICO, I'M HERE.

WEARING A COSTUME. FIGHTING... CRIME.

THAT WAS HARD TO SAY.

MY OTHER NAME IS *KAINE*.

THE NAME OF A *MURDERER*. IT FITS ALL TOO WELL.

THE PLAN WAS ALWAYS TO *DISAPPEAR*.

NOTHING GOES TO PLAN.

The Japanese Gardens, Hermann Park.

THIS IS INSANE, WALLY.

WHAT IS?

YOU KNOW. CALLING HIM HERE.

HIM, PERIOD.

HE'S A VIGILANTE.

HE'S A HERO, HERNANDEZ.

THIS ISN'T NEW YORK. WE DON'T HAVE COSTUMED HEROES.

WE DO NOW. YOU KNOW WE NEED HIM. TWO YEARS AGO, YOU WOULD HAVE WEPT AT THE SIGHT OF HIM, AFTER WHAT CLUTCH DID.

DON'T SAY THAT NAME. IF ANYTHING, YOUR GUY IS JUST GOING TO MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR US.

WE NEED HIM. WITH THE CARTELS' INFLUENCE SPREADING, WITH--

VHHHH

WHO'S CLUTCH?

AHH!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE WE DON'T NEED HIM.

THIS MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO YOU, BUT I'VE SEEN DEAD BODIES BEFORE.

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD JAPANESE FEMALE, NO I.D.

...AND WHY AM I HERE?

SHE WAS PUT HERE AS A WARNING.

WHAT, TO ME?

TO EVERYONE LIKE HER.

THE MARK ON HER FACE

IT'S MY MARK

THE MARK OF KAINE

BACK WHEN. BEFORE *WHEN* I *KILLED* PEOPLE FOR MONEY, FOR REVENGE, FOR *ANYTHING*, I WOULD TEAR THE FLESH OFF THEIR FACES WITH MY HAND

INSTEAD OF WALL-CRAWLING LIKE SPIDER-MAN, THAT'S WHAT I CHOSE TO DO WITH MY "*POWERS*"

SCARLET!

HEY! YOU WITH US?

WHO DID THIS?

WE DON'T KNOW. USUALLY, A GIRL LIKE THIS TURNS UP, SHE'S BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY *ILLEGALLY*, FORCED TO WORK OFF HER FARE OVER HERE.

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM. AND ONCE THEY'RE *HERE*, THEY'VE GOT *NOWHERE* TO GO.

SOMETIMES THEY END UP IN THE *KITCHENS*, BUT MOST OF THE TIME...*WORSE*.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT A *SLAVE*.

EVERYBODY KNOWS

THE POLICE, THE POLITICIANS, REGULAR PEOPLE... THEY ALL KNOW.

THEY SEE IT EVERY DAY.

PLACES LIKE THIS, THEY BRING IN GIRLS FROM ANY NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH DREAMS OF A BETTER LIFE, OR HELPING THEIR FAMILIES...

AND THAT DREAM BECOMES A NIGHTMARE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING. GIRLS FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION, IN A KIND OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY

AND WITH HOUSTON'S PROXIMITY TO THE BORDER, COUPLED WITH HAVING ONE OF THE BIGGEST PORTS IN THE COUNTRY...

...IT'S A STAGING GROUND

WHEN THE POLICE SHUT DOWN ONE OF THESE PLACES, WALLY TELLS ME, ANOTHER REPLACES IT THE NEXT DAY

THEY CAN'T SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

I CAN'T SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

THE GIRL WAS FOURTEEN.

HELL

WHAT IN THE HELL?!

LEAVE.

YOU.

WHO RUNS THIS PLACE?

I...I...

AAH!

TING!

SHLIK!

SHRIP!

AAAIEE!

I DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S INSTINCT. THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD.

I PUT MY HAND ON THEIR FACE, AND PULL.

BUT SOMEONE GOT TO HIM FIRST

THAT IS WHO I WAS.

I TELL THEM TO GO, TO RUN...IN JAPANESE, IN SPANISH, I SCREAM AT *THEM*...THEY STAND THERE, SHAKING IN FEAR.

BUT THEY STAY. THEY'RE SCARED OF ME, BUT THEY'RE MORE SCARED OF *THEM*, THE PEOPLE THAT PUT THEM HERE.

THEY'RE SCARED OF WHOEVER DID THIS

The Four Seasons Hotel.
DOWNTOWN HOUSTON.

THEY HAVE NO IDEA, THE BLOOD ON MY HANDS

THE MONSTER I AM

ANNABELLE

SO BEAUTIFUL. I PULLED HER INTO MY LIFE, SHE'S BEEN NOTHING BUT KIND TO ME.

AND WHAT WOULD SHE SAY IF SHE KNEW WHAT I WAS?

ARACELY.

THIS WAS ALL ABOUT HER. SAVING HER WAS THE REASON I STAYED IN HOUSTON.

WOULD SHE LOOK UP TO ME IF SHE KNEW THE THINGS I'VE DONE?

I NEVER INTENDED TO STAY HERE. THE PLAN WAS ALWAYS TO DISAPPEAR INTO MEXICO AND START A NEW LIFE AWAY FROM ALL THE MADNESS.

AWAY FROM SPIDER-MAN, SUPER HEROES, JACKALS AND QUEENS...

AWAY FROM *ME*.

BUT THEN I SAVED HER, AND ALL MY PLANS WENT TO HELL. NOW, LIKE SOME KIND OF COSMIC JOKE, I'M HOUSTON'S VERY OWN SUPER HERO.

I JUST WANTED TO GIVE HER A SECOND CHANCE, THE SAME CHANCE I WAS GETTING. A LIFE, FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE QUESTION IS, HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN?

Night One.
GREENSPOINT, A.K.A. GUNSPOINT.

Night Two.
SPLENDORA.

WHITE, BLACK, LATINO, ASIAN. RACE DOESN'T MATTER. IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY, SAME AS ROXXON

Night Three.
THE FIFTH WARD.

WANT TO FIND A *CRIMINAL* IN HOUSTON? START WITH THE GANGS.

FROM TAGGING ALL THE WAY UP TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND HIRED KILLINGS, THE GANGS ARE INVOLVED IN *EVERYTHING*.

AND THE HUMAN SLAVE TRADE IS *BIG* MONEY.

MOST OF THE GANGS TRY TO KILL ME ON SIGHT. OTHERS TALK...HALF OUT OF CURIOSITY ABOUT ME, HALF BECAUSE OF THE OLD "*ENEMY OF MY ENEMY*" THING.

AS LONG AS I'M NOT AFTER *THEM*...

Night Four.
LITTLE SAIGON.

...I'M PROBABLY TAKING OUT THEIR *RIVALS*.

MY LITTLE Q&A THROUGH GANGLAND HOUSTON WILL COME BACK AND BITE ME ONE DAY, WHICH SHOULD BE *FUN*.

BUT I GOT THE *NAME*.

Night Five.
DOWNTOWN.
MARK TOMANAGA, BETTER KNOWN AS THE MARK.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO SIT DOWN?
YOU REALLY NEED TO TRY THE PRIME RIB.
DO YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY?
YOU KILLED A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL.
DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE YOUNGEST GIRL I'VE EVER KILLED?
I LIKE YOU. I'VE SEEN THE BROKEN BONES, THE BLOOD, THE HARD MEN WHO SHAKE IN FEAR OF THE SCARLET SPIDER.
YOU AND I, "SCARLET SPIDER," WE BOTH KNOW THAT POWER AND VIOLENCE ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT PEOPLE RESPECT.
WE ARE BROTHERS.
YOU'RE A SLAVER, AND YOUR LITTLE BUSINESS IS GOING TO END RIGHT NOW.
SLAVER? PEOPLE WERE MADE TO BE SLAVES, TO BE USED BY MEN OF POWER.
BUT AS FAR AS "MY" BUSINESS ENDING, YOU'RE ILL INFORMED.

IT'S NOT JUST *MINE.*

THE HAND IN HOUSTON.

THAT'S... JUST... GREAT

THE FIRST SHURIKEN DIGS INTO MY SHOULDER. I FIND MYSELF WISHING I STILL HAD SOME KIND OF SPIDER-SENSE.

THE HAND

AN ANCIENT LINE OF JAPANESE NINJA KILLERS SAID TO BE CONTROLLED BY A LITERAL DEMON.

A MONSTER

THERE'S SOME GREAT LESSON I COULD LEARN FROM THIS.

STARE INTO THE ABYSS, BLAH BLAH BLAH.

BUT NONE OF IT MATTERS.

IF I'M DEAD.

WELL DONE.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE IMPRESSED.

BECAUSE YOU'RE *NEXT.*

REALLY? SO WHAT...A HARSH WORD? *THREATS?* WEB ME UP, SEND ME TO *JAIL?*

NO. YOU KNOW BETTER, DON'T YOU?

YOU HAVE TO *KILL* ME.

ONCE, I PLUNGED MY HANDS INTO THE *BLOOD* OF THE *BEAST* TO PROVE MY DEVOTION TO THE HAND.

THE PAIN WOULD HAVE KILLED ANYONE ELSE.

THEY SAW THE *TRUTH* OF ME.

WHAT IS *YOUR* TRUTH?

THE TRUTH IS, I WAS HIM.

MY VICTIMS SAW ME JUST LIKE THIS, THEIR HORRIBLE DEATHS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEIR FACES

MY OWN SCARRED FACE THE LAST THING THEY EVER SAW

AND I KNOW THE ANSWER IS YES

IS THIS WHO I AM?

SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE STOPPED ME

SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE *KILLED* ME

BUT THEY DIDN'T.

AND HERE I AM, A SECOND CHANCE A CHANCE TO TRY TO BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN A MONSTER

EXCUSE ME. I SEEM TO BE INTERRUPTING SOMETHING.

SO OF COURSE, NOW IS WHEN EVERYONE TRIES TO KILL ME.

BRUISER, COULD YOU HELP THE MAN UP?

A.I.M.

DON'T KNOW WHO THESE TWO ARE, DON'T CARE.

ASK QUESTIONS LATER. FIRST, TAKE THEM--

A.I.M.

HOLY!

YOU MAY NOT WANT TO DO--

--THAT.

NYEAAAA!

I THINK I JUST BROKE MY HAND.

WHAT THE HELL--?

I FEEL LIKE I JUST PUNCHED A MOUNTAIN. HE DIDN'T EVEN BUDGE.

AHEM. AS I WAS SAYING... PARDON THE INTERRUPTION. I AM ***THE ARRANGER***, THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE, ***THE BRUISER***.

I AM HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE HAND'S MASTER AND RULER.

YOU?

YOU'RE THE MASTER OF THE HAND?

I DON'T THINK SO.

OF COURSE NOT. BUT AS I SPEAK WITH HIS VOICE AND AUTHORITY...

...THE CULTURE OF THE HAND EXTENDS ME THAT RESPECT.

THE ***KINGPIN*** ASKED ME TO SEND A MESSAGE REGARDING THE MARK'S ACTIVITIES HERE IN HOUSTON.

CRACK!

HK!

THE *KINGPIN* WILL BE TAKING DIRECT CONTROL OF THE HAND'S BUSINESSES IN *HOUSTON.*

AS FAR AS I KNOW, WILSON FISK HAS *NO* ISSUES WITH THE *"SCARLET SPIDER,"* BUT I *ADVISE* YOU TO MAKE SURE IT *STAYS* THAT *WAY.*

A.I.M

NOT A CHANCE IN HELL. EVERYTHING THE HAND IS DOING HERE, I'M GOING TO BURN IT DOWN TO THE GROUND.

SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK SO. FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOUR HANDS WILL BE *FULL* SOON ENOUGH.

THE KINGPIN THANKS YOU IN *ADVANCE* FOR SETTLING AN OLD *DEBT.*

HOOWWLL...

THUD

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?!*

WITH GREAT POWER...

...WITH GREAT POWER, HE SAID. SOME OLD GUY I NEVER KNEW, HE *SAID* THIS.

ALL SHE WANTED WAS A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE.

WITH GREAT POWER MUST COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

THAT'S ONE WAY TO GO.

WITH GREAT POWER ALSO COMES THE ABILITY TO RAIN DOWN *HELL* ON THOSE WHO PREY ON THE *WEAK*, PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T FIGHT THE *MONSTERS*.

TO STOP PEOPLE LIKE *ME*.

I THINK THAT'S THE WAY I'LL GO

The Texas/Mexico Border.

TAKE US TO HOUSTON.

#13 "IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES, PART 1"

Houston, Texas.

The Neighborhood: Greenspoint.

a.k.a.

Gunspoint.

WHAM!

DIOS...

HOLA.

<WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.>

TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

<DO YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?>

<THE...THE WOLVES...>

<OH, GOOD. THAT WILL MAKE THIS SO MUCH EASIER.>

<THE LOBO CARTEL HAS NEED OF YOUR LITTLE GANG.>

<ARE...ARE YOU TAKING OVER?>

<NO.>

<WE'VE COME FOR A GIRL.>

SHE WAS SMUGGLED ACROSS THE BORDER BY SOME *COYOTE*, CARRYING ONLY A FEW ITEMS IN A BAG, AND A BUS TICKET.

SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS WAITING FOR HER, ONLY WHAT SHE WAS TOLD.

THE PROMISE OF AMERICA. A NEW LIFE.

SHE'S, WHAT, THIRTEEN YEARS OLD? SHE DIDN'T QUESTION WHO PAID FOR THE COYOTE OR THE BUS TICKET.

NOR COULD SHE HAVE EVER IMAGINED WHAT WAS WAITING FOR HER ONCE SHE GOT TO THE PROMISED LAND.

IN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, THIS GIRL WILL BE DRUGGED, BEATEN, RAPED, THEN FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION AS A *SLAVE*.

THIS IS HER NEW LIFE.

OR RATHER, IT *WOULD* HAVE BEEN.

AIEE!

WHAT THE HELL--?

IF I HADN'T GOTTEN INVOLVED.

HELL. YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT. GOOD.

SO WHEN I SEND YOU THERE, YOU WON'T BE SURPRISED.

MY NAME IS KAINE.

AND FOR SOME REASON I KEEP GETTING INVOLVED.

THE GIRL WANTS TO RUN, BUT SHE CAN'T.

KRACK

AAAHH!

SHE HAS NOTHING. NO ONE TO RUN TO. NOWHERE TO GO

ONLY HIM

WHICH IS EXACTLY HOW THEY WANT HER.

THOK

HER NAIVETE WILL KILL HER.

SO I ROB HER OF IT BEFORE THEY DO.

<BE AFRAID.>

I HATE THIS.

THERE'S NO WORKABLE SOLUTION HERE.

I'VE BEEN TAKING DOWN EVERY ASPECT OF THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING OPERATION I CAN FIND HERE IN HOUSTON.

TRAFFICKERS WORK FOR THE GANGS, GANGS DELIVER GIRLS TO PIMPS AND MODERN DAY BROTHELS. THEY WORK FOR WHO?

THE HAND? ROXXON?

I GAVE THE GIRL MONEY AND SENT HER TO THE *CHURCH*.

SHE'LL PROBABLY BE *DEPORTED*. BUT I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER GIRL IN... *ARACELY* IS TOO MUCH TO HANDLE AS IT IS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO *DO*.

I JUST KNOW IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

I'VE BEEN AT IT ALL WEEK.

I KNOW BETTER.

I KNOW BETTER THAN TO CARE ABOUT *THIS*.

Sunday.

NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THESE *PLACES* I SHUT DOWN, *ANOTHER* WILL TAKE ITS PLACE.

NO MATTER HOW MANY GANGS I TEAR *APART*...

Monday.

...ANOTHER WILL FILL THE VOID LEFT BEHIND.

POW!

Tuesday.

THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO, BUT I CAN'T *STOP*.

I KNOW BETTER THAN THIS.

...

I WONDER WHAT ARACELY IS DOING RIGHT NOW.

Wednesday.

THIS PLACE...ITS BEAUTY IS ALMOST MORE THAN I CAN BEAR. I DO NOT KNOW WHO I AM, OR WHERE I CAME FROM.

BUT I KNOW THIS IS AZTLAN.

THIS IS PARADISE, FOUND WHEN THE SEVEN TRIBES JOURNEYED FROM THEIR CAVES.

WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE CAVES.

ARACELY.

THE FIFTH CREATION IS ENDING.

MICTLAN RISES.

YOU SHOULD BE DEAD, NOT DREAMING.

YOU SHOULD BE THERE, NOT HERE.

THE LEFT HANDED HUMMINGBIRD WILL BE CONSUMED.

YOU ARE THE LEFT-HANDED HUMMINGBIRD.

NO!

AAH!

ARACELY.

QUE?

YOU CANNOT DO THIS ALONE.

YOU REQUIRE A CHAMPION.

I AM IN MICTLAN NOW. THE KNIVES, THEY HURT. WE WILL BE TOGETHER SOON, DAUGHTER.

YOU... YOU'RE MY MOTHER.

YOU BELONG HERE. YOU HAVE DONE TERRIBLE THINGS.

PLEASE... PLEASE, NO...

YES.

XIUHCOATL!

THE WOLVES COME FOR YOU.

MICTLAN RISES!

"ARACELY!"

NOOOO!

ARACELY!

ANNABELLE? I...I WAS DREAMING...

ARE YOU CRYING?

IT'S YOU...YOUR WEIRD PSYCHIC THING... YOU'RE DOING THIS, AREN'T YOU?

I... I DON'T KNOW.

WE NEED TO FIND KAINE.

WHAT WILL YOU ASK FOR, MY BROTHER?

FOR YOUR *REWARD?*

SNNNRT!

AAH!

I ALREADY KNOW. I WILL ASK FOR OUR BROTHER BACK.

HA! YOU ARE AS WEAK AS EDUARDO WAS.

YOU WOULD *WASTE* THIS ON BRINGING HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD? NOT ME.

SWAINFF!!

SHE'S CLOSE.

LET'S MOVE.

@#$%.
JAR.
UGH. FINE. I'M JUST SAYING, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A ROUGH DREAM. BUT YOU THINK IT'S MORE?
...YES.
I CAN'T REMEMBER, KAINE. I CAN'T REMEMBER, BUT I KNOW THEY WERE MY PARENTS. THAT THE MAN... THE *COYOTE MAN*... HE'S BAD.
THAT HE WILL BRING THE DARKNESS.
SHE SAID I HAD DONE TERRIBLE THINGS.
WE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT, ARACELY.
I'M...I'M NOT AS SMART AS MY BROTHERS, BUT WE CAN DO THIS. I KNOW THAT ROXXON PAID A CARTEL FOR THE SHIPPING CONTAINER I FOUND YOU IN.
WE CAN TRACK THIS *DOWN*.
WE NEED TO GO TO MEXICO.
SOMEONE... SOMEONE IS *SCARED*.
...IS IT YOU?
NO. SOMETHING IS COMING.
DO I NEED MY COSTUME?
YES.
YOU MUST BE THE SPIDER.

ARAÑA ESCARLATA, MI HERMANO.

YES, OF COURSE...FORGIVE ME. THE SCARLET SPIDER.

YOU *ARE* SPIDER-MAN, BUT NOT. YOUR SCENT...THE SAME, BUT DIFFERENT.

WE'VE HEARD QUITE A *BIT* ABOUT YOU.

WALK AWAY. WE ONLY WANT THE GIRL.

ARACELY?

SHE'S TERRIFIED, I CAN FEEL HER SHAKING. AND AS MUCH AS I WANT TO TEAR THESE TWO APART...

...I *HAVE* TO PROTECT HER.

‹HE RAN, ESMERELDA.›

‹HAPPY NOW?›

‹OH, YES.›

WHO THE *HELL* WERE THEY?!

I DON'T KNOW!

ARACELY...

I'M SORRY... *I'M SORRY!* I CAN'T REMEMBER!

IT'S OKAY. LOOK, JUST...JUST GO TO THE POLICE, FIND WALLY. TELL HIM WHAT'S HAPPENED, TELL HIM TO TAKE YOU IN.

WHERE ARE YOU--

I'M GOING BACK. I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY WANT WITH YOU, AND--

Aaooo...

GREAT. SHE'S *HOWLING* NOW. THAT'S NOT GOING TO--

A WOLF'S HOWL

A WOLF'S *HOWL*, JUST LIKE THE *BRUISER* I RAN INTO DID...

THE WOLVES, JUST LIKE THE DRUG DEALERS AT THE PIER MENTIONED. JUST LIKE THE FILE NAME ON THE ROXXON DATABASE.

BUT NOT JUST WOLVES...

RRRAAA!

KAINE!

UHN!

HURR...

GRRRRRR...

ARACELY...

THWIP

HNN!

SLAM!

YOU WANT THE GIRL? YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME.

HRRR...

...SPIDER...

...WE WOULD NOT WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY.

SLASH

NNYAA!

TALKING WEREWOLVES FROM MEXICO

HERE WE GO

THWIPP!

SLASH!

RRRR

THUNK!

YIPP!

ARACELY...

THUD!

RUN!

AND FINALLY, SHE *SNAPS* OUT OF IT AND MOVES

WHAP

BUT EVEN AS I DEAL WITH *ONE* WOLF...

THE *OTHER* IS ON HER

NO. THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

GOING TO KILL THESE THINGS. PUT A STINGER IN ITS BRAIN, JUST LIKE...

SKLIK!

JUST LIKE *CARNAGE*. JUST LIKE A MONSTER WOULD

I CAN'T--

NNYEEDADGHH!

CHOMP

ONE MOMENT'S HESITATION

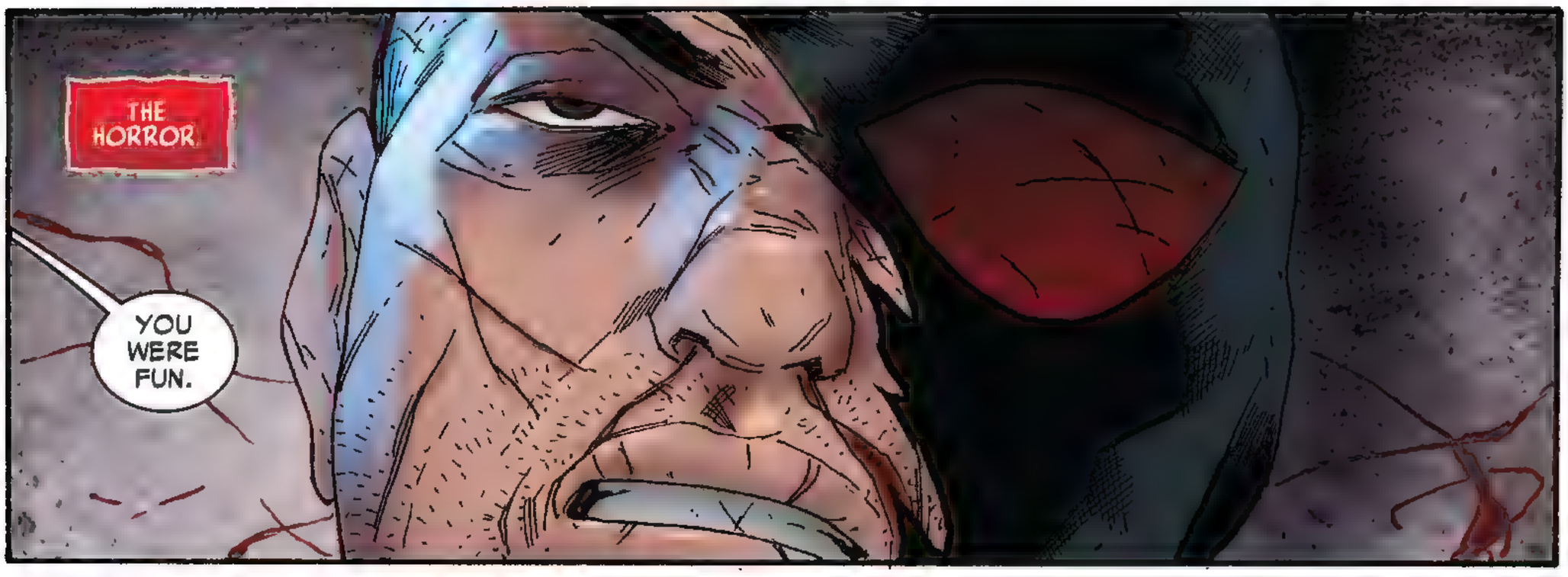
A FLEETING THOUGHT

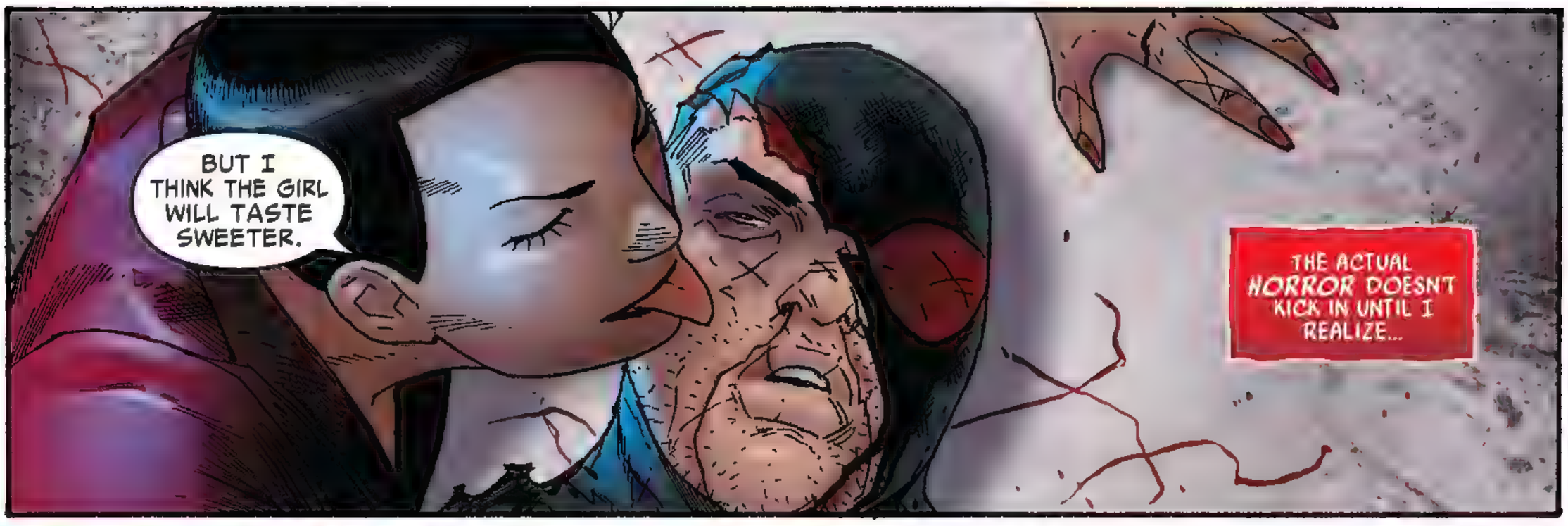
A WISH TO BE A BETTER MAN

WHAT DOES *THAT* GET ME?

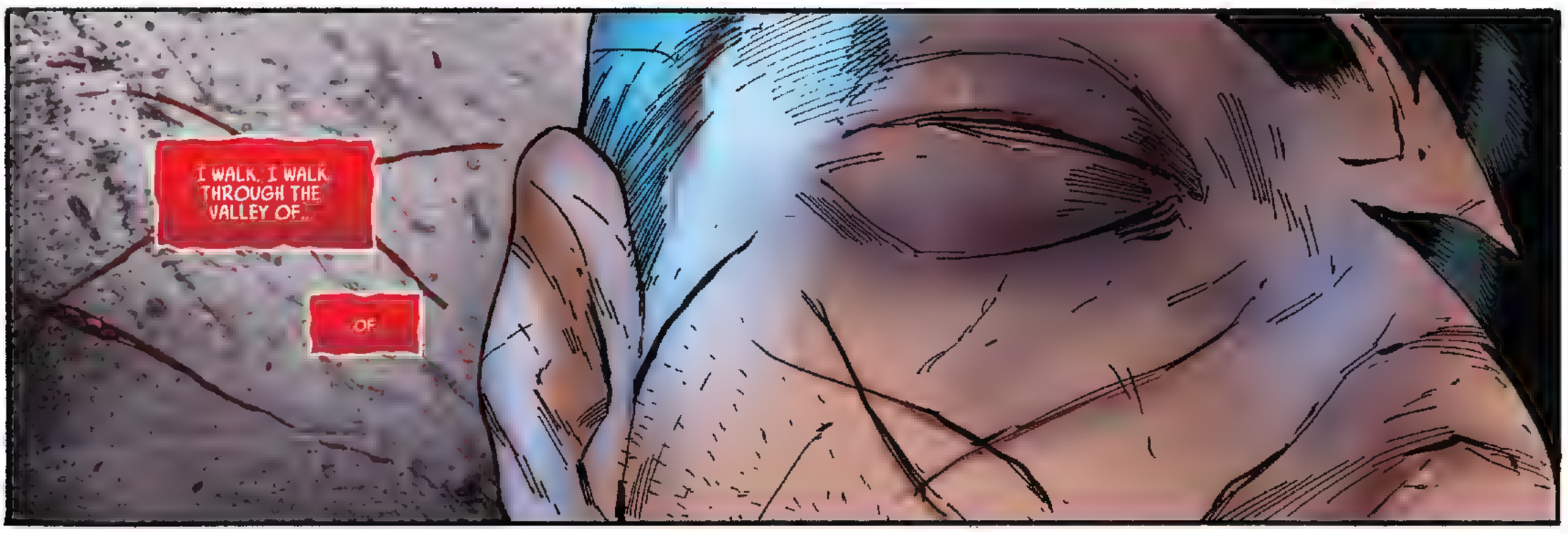
IN FIGHTING MONSTERS, DO YOU HAVE TO *BECOME* A MONSTER?

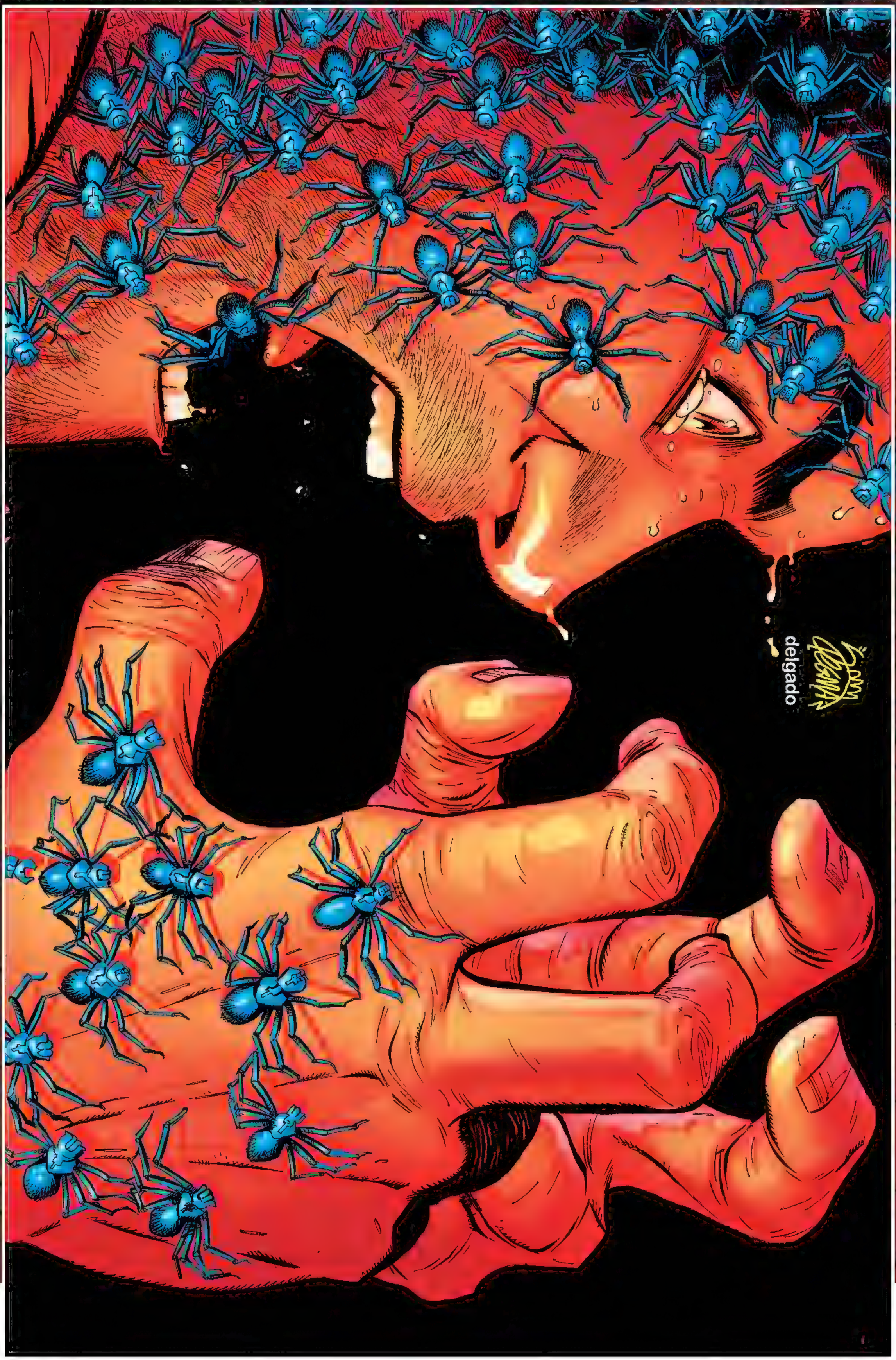
ALL I CAN THINK OF IS THAT I'M GLAD ARACELY ISN'T HERE TO SEE THIS


THE HORROR
YOU WERE FUN.


BUT I THINK THE GIRL WILL TASTE SWEETER.
THE ACTUAL HORROR DOESNT KICK IN UNTIL I REALIZE...

...THEY'RE EATING ME
WHAT...WHAT DID HE SAY? WHAT DID THE PRIEST SAY?


I WALK. I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF...
OF



#14 "IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES, PART 2"

Houston, Texas.

THE LORD

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

HOOOOWL

HOOOOOWWWWLLLL

KAINE...

I SHALL NOT WANT

I... I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE...

HEY! WATCH IT, I--

RUN RUN RUN *RUN!*

I CAN'T REMEMBER

WHY... WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

WE'RE GOING TO DIE... OH, GOD, I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS...

...I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

HOOOOOWWWWLLLL

YEA, THOUGH I WALK NO

NO!

AAHH!

RRRRR...

THUMP

NO.

<YOU... YOU'RE SCARED. I CAN FEEL IT.>

<SCARED YOU'LL DIE, JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER.>

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT... ABOUT...

?

GET AWAY.

GET AWAY FROM ME!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM!?

AAIEEE!

STOP! PLEASE, STOP!

ARE YOU OKAY? ARE--

WAAAAH!

THUD!

GO!

NOT THAT PART

NOT THAT PART

SURELY... SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.

AND I WILL DWELL...

I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.

HELLO?

IS ANYONE THERE?

FATHER?

CONFESS YOUR SINS, KAINE.

I'VE TOLD YOU *ALL* THIS...

DO YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF *FREE* OF SIN NOW?

...

IN THE NAME OF THE *FATHER*, AND OF THE *SON*, AND OF THE *HOLY SPIRIT*...

TELL ME OF THE *INNOCENTS* YOU KILLED.

I WANT TO BE *FORGIVEN!*

TELL ME OF THE *WOMAN* YOU MURDERED.

I...I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY. I THOUGHT SHE *LOVED* ME...

I COULDN'T *STOP* MYSELF, I WAS SO *ANGRY*...

TELL ME OF THE *BROTHER* YOU TORTURED.

BEN?! WHAT?

FATHER?

TELL ME OF THE *FATHER* YOU BETRAYED.

NO!

WHO *ARE* YOU?!

WHAT ARE YOU?!

THE QUESTION IS, "WHO ARE YOU?"

SOMETHING... SOMETHING'S *WRONG*...I DON'T FEEL...

YES. THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG.

MY STOMACH... OH, GOD.

YOU KEEP TRYING TO BE A *HUMAN.*

WHAT'S WRONG IS THAT YOU KEEP THINKING YOU'RE A *MAN.*

BUT THE REAL PROBLEM...

NO.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOU THINK YOU'RE *ALIVE*.

...NO.

WHAT IS IT EXACTLY THAT YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE FIGHTING?

I AM *YOU*. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN YOU.

NO... YOU'RE SOME *MONSTER*...

AND WHAT ARE *YOU*?

THIS *CAN'T* BE HAPPENING...

PEOPLE LOOK TO YOU AND SEE A *MAN*. BUT YOU KNOW THE *TRUTH*. THE TRUTH OF WHAT'S *INSIDE* YOU.

YOU'VE ALWAYS *KNOWN*.

NOT A MAN, BUT A *SPIDER*.

YOU ARE NOT *ONE*, BUT THE *OTHER*.

URK! UGH!

NEVER MEANT TO BE. *REJECTED.* CAST ASIDE. *DYING.*

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT *ME...*

WE ARE THE *SAME.*

THE GREAT *WEAVER* CHOSE THE ONE CALLED *PETER PARKER* TO BECOME THE *SPIDER-MAN.*

PETER...

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO EMBRACE *ME.* EMBRACE THE *SPIDER* WITHIN HIM.

BUT HE *REJECTED* ME INSTEAD.

"HE SAW WHAT WE WOULD *BECOME...*

"...AND EVENTUALLY, HE CAST ME *OUT.*

"WITHOUT HIM, I COULD NOT BE. WITHOUT ME, HE WILL DIE.

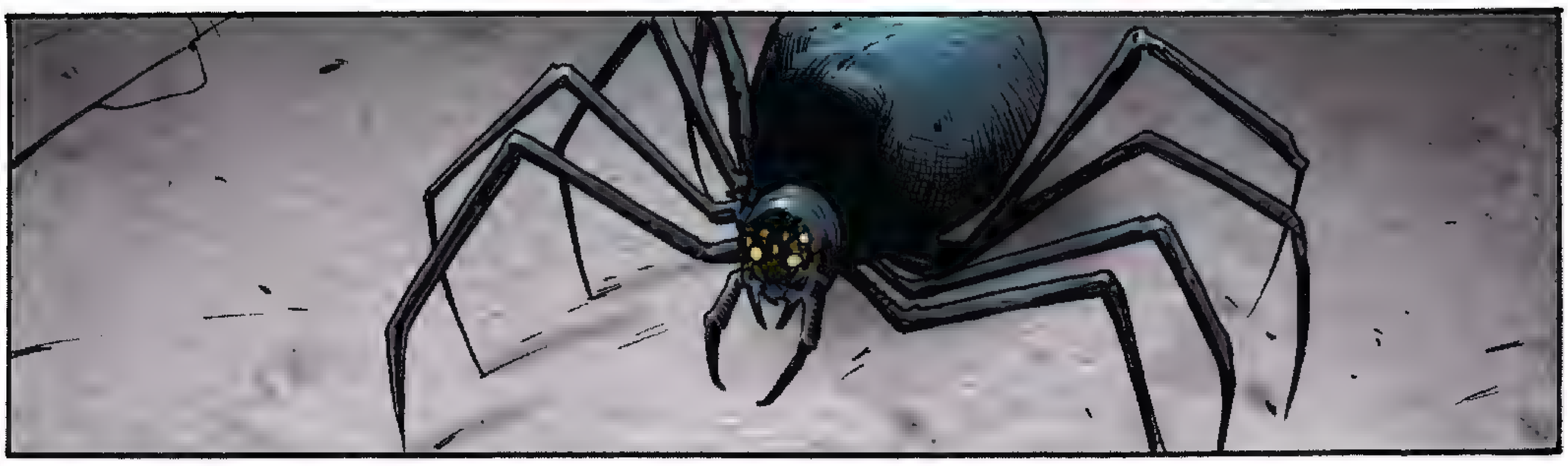
"BUT THEN I FOUND *YOU.*

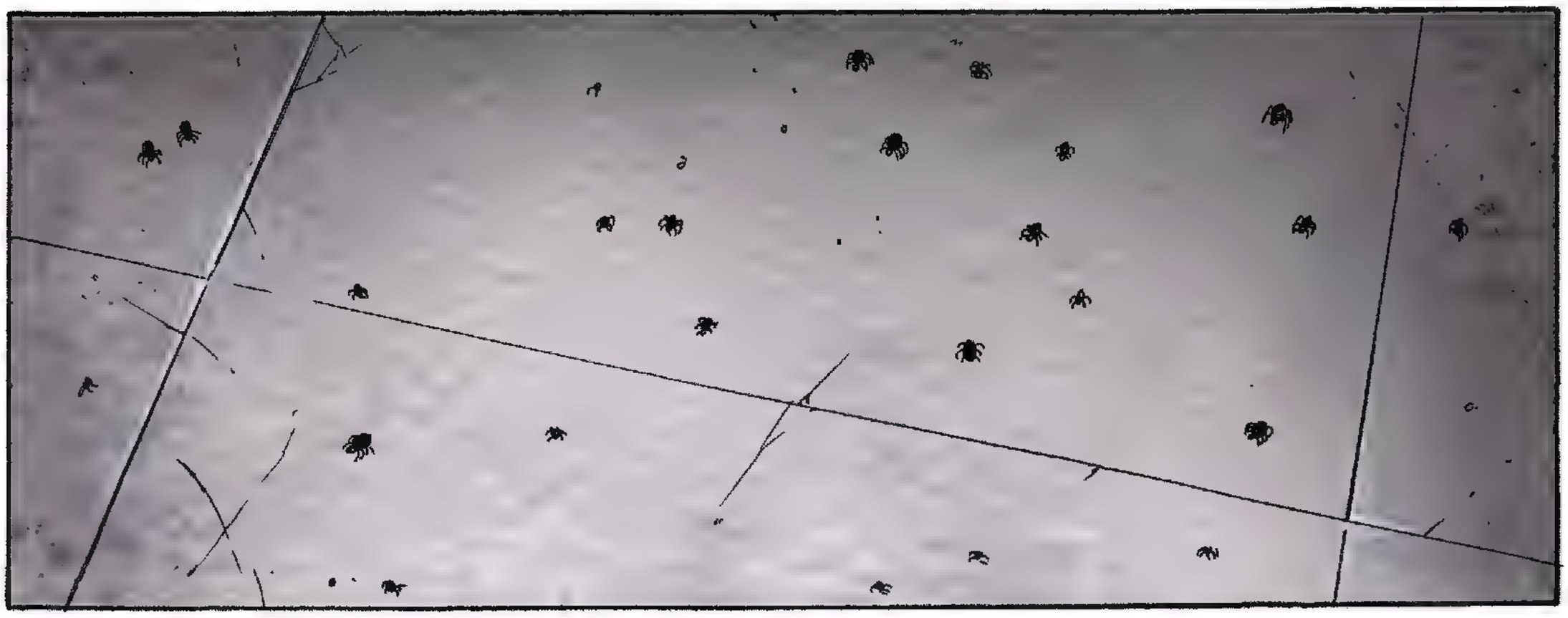
HIM, BUT *NOT* HIM.

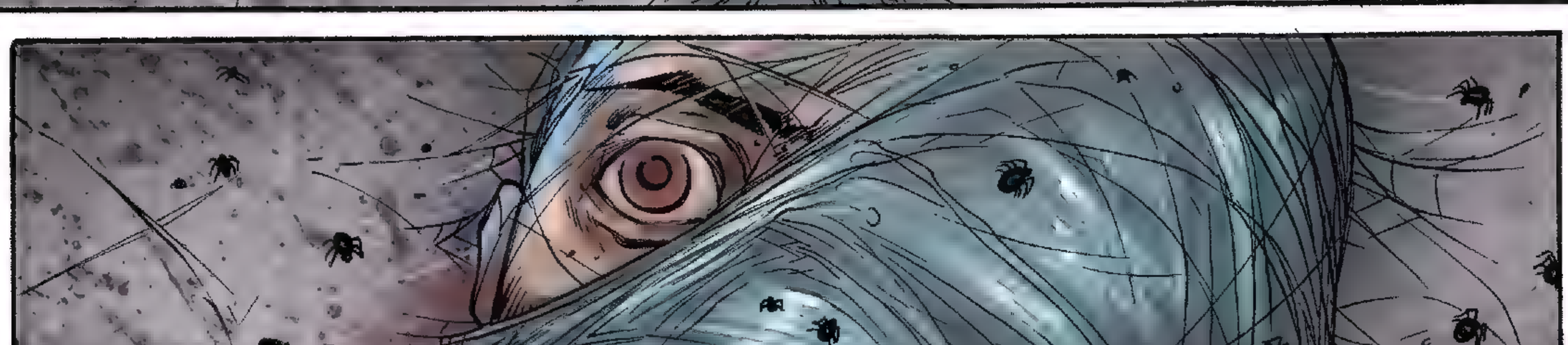
"YOU WERE LIKE *ME...*

"...UNTIL *YOU* DIED.

"UNTIL I BROUGHT *YOU BACK.*"







The Third Ward, Houston.

SKRREEEE!

COME ON, COME ON...

PLEASE, PLEASE FIND ME...

OF COURSE WE FOUND YOU.

DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH WE CANNOT TRACK YOU?

CAREFUL, BIG BROTHER. THE COYOTE **WARNED** US...SHE'S GOING TO PUT HER SPELL ON YOU **AGAIN**.

BE SCARED...

NO!

THE FIRE SERPENT SAID SHE COULD NOT *REMEMBER*. SOME KIND OF *AMNESIA*.

I DON'T THINK *SO*. DID HE WANT HER *DEAD* OR *ALIVE*?

RIDICULOUS. AN ACT... SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE IS. YOU SAW WHAT SHE DID TO ME.

DEAD.

HM.

WHO AM I, *LITTLE GOD?* SHOULDN'T YOU BE ASKING WHO *YOU* ARE?

MARIA ARACELY JOSEFINA PENALBA DE LAS HERAS.

OR, QUITE POSSIBLY, *HUITZILOPOCHTLI* REINCARNATE. OPINIONS VARY.

WHO *ARE* YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM *ME*?

ENOUGH OF THIS PLAY. SHE IS SAID TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL OF THEM. KILL HER.

WE COULD *USE* HER, CARLOS. WHAT THE TRICKSTER *PLANS*, WE COULD CONTROL IT. WE COULD--

NO. HE'S THE ONE THAT RETURNED OUR POWERS TO US. HE'S THE ONE THAT WILL GIVE US EDUARDO--

BAM!

UHN!

CARLOS!

HEY.

@#$%*% MUTTS.

YOU'RE IN THE *THIRD WARD* NOW. THAT MEANS YOU'RE TRESPASSING ON *SHARK* TERRITORY.

BOYS... BRING ME THEIR *HIDES* FOR MY *WALL.*

THE GIRL... SHE *LED* US HERE.

SHE DID THIS ON PURPOSE!

"YOU ALREADY KNOW THE TRUTH."

UNLIKE PARKER, YOU'RE NOT A MAN WHO DREAMS OF BEING A SPIDER.

YOU'RE A SPIDER, WHO DREAMS OF BEING A MAN.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE SPIDER.

A KILLER...A MONSTER.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ACCEPT IT.

ACCEPT YOUR TRUE NATURE. EMBRACE ME, AND I WILL SHOW YOU POWER YOU'VE ONLY DREAMED OF

I CAN HELP YOU SURVIVE WHAT'S COMING

ALL YOU NEED SAY IS "YES."

WHATEVER THE HELL YOU ARE...WHATEVER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...I DON'T CARE.

DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW I WAS A MONSTER?

YOU WANT ME TO SAY YES?

NO!

"BRING IT!"

ICE THESE SUCKAHS!
DO IT!
MOVE! MOVE!
SHARKS DON'T BOW DOWN!
I GOT HIM!
ACK!
HELP! WHAT IS THAT!
GET TO THE GIRL!
KILL HER!
OH, MALDICIÓN.

RRRAAAA!

AAAAHH!

YOU'RE DEAD, YOU LITTLE--

COME BACK HERE!

HURR?!

YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF YOU, LOBO!?

I'M THE *SHARK!* SHARK'S NOT AFRAID OF *NOTHING!*

@!#$% KILL YOU!

PUT YOU DOWN!

AHHH... AHH...

"YOU WANT TO SEE A MONSTER?!"

I'LL SHOW YOU A MONSTER!

I DON'T CARE, DO YOU HEAR ME?!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT PARKER, I DON'T CARE ABOUT SPIDERS, OR GREAT WEAVERS...I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF IT!

IF I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD, THEN LET ME BE DEAD! IF THIS IS HELL, THEN *LET ME BURN!*

AND THEN I SEE IT. THIS MONSTER, THIS... THIS *OTHER*

IS THIS WHAT I *AM?*

HSSSS...

PROBABLY. SO I DECIDE TO KILL IT

I KILL *IT*, AND ALL THIS IS *OVER*. ALL THE INSANITY THAT IS MY *LIFE*, IT CAN JUST BE *OVER*.

BUT THEN...THEN I REALIZE THAT *ARACELY* IS STILL OUT THERE.

AND IF I DIE... *SHE* DIES

NO NOT ME

GOD HELP ME.

SHE NEEDS THE MONSTER.

YES.

YEEESSS...

FOR SO LONG NOW, I TRIED TO BE SOMETHING I'M NOT.

I'VE TRIED TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

I'VE FOUGHT AGAINST WHAT I KNEW I WAS.

THE MOST FRIGHTENING THING

IS HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO STOP FIGHTING IT

THIS IS WHAT I WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE.

MY NAME IS KAINE.

NOT MAN, BUT SPIDER, NOT ONE.

BUT THE *OTHER*

#15 "IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES, PART 3"

The Third Ward, Houston, TX.
NOW.

I HIDE.

THE WOLVES ARE TRACKING ME, I KNOW THIS...TRACKING MY SCENT.

I PRAY THAT MAYBE THE STENCH OF THE GARBAGE WILL THROW THEM OFF...

...BUT I KNOW IN MY HEART IT WILL NOT WORK. THEY WILL FIND ME AND KILL ME.

MARIA ARACELY JOSEFINA PENALBA DE LAS HERAS.

UT!

THAT IS WHAT THE GIRL WOLF CALLED ME. IS THAT WHO I AM? WHAT WAS THE OTHER NAME--

I REMEMBER.

Mexico.
BEFORE.

‹HELLO, ARACELY.›

‹IT IS SO NICE TO SEE YOU HERE.›

‹MISTER MOCTEZUMA?›

‹WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE MY *PARENTS?›*

*TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH.

‹DO NOT FRET, CHILD.›

‹YOUR PARENTS WANT ONLY THE BEST FOR YOU. THEY ASKED THIS OF ME.›

‹I WANT TO SEE THEM!›

‹YOU WILL.›

‹EVENTUALLY.›

‹YOU'RE GOING TO A BETTER PLACE NOW. THEY WILL JOIN YOU THERE.›

‹NO! LET ME GO!›

‹LET THE TRUCK SIT IN THE DESERT FOR A *DAY* BEFORE YOU DELIVER IT TO *ROXXON.*›

‹THEY WANTED *LIVE* TEST SUBJECTS. THEY'RE PAYING THE LOBO CARTEL *A LOT* OF *MONEY* FOR--›

‹THE LOBOS HAVE MUCH MORE TO GAIN FROM *ME* THAN THE AMERICANS.›

‹AND MUCH MORE TO *FEAR.* BUT FOR IT ALL TO BEGIN...›

‹...THE GIRL MUST DIE.›

I REMEMBER THE HEAT...I REMEMBER DYING...

I REMEMBER CALLING OUT TO MY PARENTS...

BUT MOST OF ALL, I REMEMBER THE VOICE.

MAMA... PAPA...

‹YOU WILL *SURVIVE* THIS.›

‹AND THEN YOU WILL MAKE THE *WORLD* BLEED.›

W-WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

PLEASE... PLEASE, KAINE...

BUT KAINE IS DEAD. I FELT HIM DIE.

I FELT...

...I FELT...

???

THE SPIDER.

IT'S LOOKING AT ME.

I'VE GONE MAD.

I'VE GONE--

SHUNK!

AAAHHHH!

DID YOU THINK THAT WAS FUNNY?

YOU ARE DEAD, HERMANA.

TO SIC YOUR LITTLE STREET GANG ON US?

HE SHOT ME!

AAHH!

YOU'RE RIGHT, BROTHER. KILL HER.

SHE'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO--TO--

ESME?

WHAT... IS...

...THAT?!

HKKK

DIOS...

NO...NOT GOD.

PREY.

KAINE?

I KNOW IT'S HIM...

HKK...

...BUT I CAN'T *FEEL* HIM LIKE I USED TO, HIS THOUGHTS, HIS *EMOTIONS*. ALL I *FEEL*...

ALL I FEEL IS PREY.

IT'S HIM... IT'S THE SPIDER-MAN.

THAT WAS NO MAN.

I CAN'T GET HIS SCENT. I CAN'T--

HE'S EVERYWHERE.

IT'S *NOT* HIM...

...IT'S THE *SPIDERS*.

THEY'RE ONE IN THE SAME.

NYEAARGH!

CARLOS!

SHLUK!

<CARLOS, ARE YOU-->

NyyAA!

MY EYE!

THE @#$% TOOK OUT MY EYE!

CARLOS--

AAIEE!

HKK... FEED.

WHAT *ARE* YOU?!

NO! YOU THINK WE'VE NEVER SEEN *MONSTERS* BEFORE?

YOU HAVE NO *IDEA* WHAT WE'VE *BEEN* THROUGH.

WE'VE SEEN MICTLAN.

YOU'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT'S COMING.

KILL YOU!

I KNOW I SHOULD RUN, BUT I CAN'T.

I CAN'T LEAVE HIM.

COME TO ME, SPIDER, SO I CAN KILL YOU!

SOMEHOW, I KNOW...HE'S IN THERE. KAINE IS STILL IN THERE.

ISN'T HE?

KILL.

I FEEL IT ALL.

THE FEAR OF THE WOLVES.

THE PAIN. THE BLOOD.

THE SAVAGERY.

I WAS WRONG.

THERE'S NOTHING HUMAN HERE.

WHATEVER KAINE IS NOW...

WHATEVER HE'S BECOME...

HE'S BEEN CONSUMED BY IT.

NO! CARLOS!

GET AWAY FROM HER! GET AWAY!

RRRAAA!

HKKKK... ...WOLF...

AGAHH!

CARLOS!

KKILL ME...KILLED ME...

HNN... NN...NO, WAIT--

KILLED ME...

HKK!

YYAARGH!

SHRUCKK!

CARLOSSS!

DON'T TOUCH HIM!

CARLOS, PLEASEPLEASE PLEASE...

DON'T DIE! DON'T DIE, CARLOS! I NEED YOU!

CARLOS!

OH...OH... WHAT...

KAINE? KAINE, ARE YOU--

PREY

NO...

YAAAA

THWP!

THWP! THWP!

I FIND MYSELF WAITING FOR KAINE TO COME AND SAVE ME.

IT MAKES ME ALMOST WANT TO LAUGH. ALMOST.

KAINE! YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME!

I CAN MAKE YOU LISTEN!

WE ARE CONNECTED. YOU CAN HEAR ME. YOU CAN FEEL ME.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED, YOU--

HURK!

COME BACK FOR ME.

KAINE, PLEASE...IF YOU CAME BACK...

...YOU CAME BACK FOR ME. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ME, I KNOW...PLEASE, I KNOW YOU...

BRRRAAA!

UHN!

KAINE?

THIS...OH, GOD. THIS ISN'T ME.

WHAT YOU SAW, WHAT WAS ABOUT TO KILL YOU...

ARACELY, THAT'S ME.

I'M NOT AFRAID. I COULD NEVER BE AFRAID OF YOU.

I WAS GOING TO KILL YOU.

YOU COULD NEVER HURT ME.

YOU DON'T KNOW...DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM.

YOU'RE WRONG. I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE. I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.

"YOU'RE MY CHAMPION."

COME ON, KAINE, LET ME CUT IT!

NO! GET OFF ME!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THINGS WENT BACK TO NORMAL... MORE OR LESS.

SHOULD I ASK HOW YOU LOST A TATTOO?

...PROBABLY NOT.

SCARS WERE GONE. MY TATTOO WAS GONE.

IT'S LIKE I WAS BORN AGAIN.

AND AGAIN AND AGAIN.

ARACELY KNOWS, BUT SHE ACTS AS IF NOTHING HAS CHANGED. THE OTHERS...

...AND THEN WALLY CALLS ME AND ASKS IF HE SHOULD SHOOT THE LADY!

THIS IS AN EXAGGERATION.

HA!

...IT'S BETTER THEY DON'T KNOW.

FOR SO LONG, I STRUGGLED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHETHER I WAS A MONSTER OR NOT.

I DON'T STRUGGLE WITH IT ANYMORE

MY NAME IS KAINE. AND NOW...

NOW I KNOW I'M A MONSTER.

New York City.
LENOX HILL HOSPITAL
PATIENT: JULIA CARPENTER.
...KAINE...
HMM? MOM?
Between Worlds.
SPIDER.
The End Of All Things.
THE OTHER HAS ASCENDED.
THE CULLING WILL SOON BEGIN.

The Four Seasons Hotel.
HOUSTON.

ARACEEEELLyYYy...

MICTLAN RISES.

THE SIXTH CREATION COMES.

‹IT REQUIRES BLOOD.›

‹WE WILL MAKE THE WORLD *BLEED*.›

Mexico.

NYEARGH!

ESME...

‹IT'S OKAY, BROTHER. IT'S OKAY, *EVERY-THING* IS GOING TO BE--›

‹YOU SHOULD NOT *LIE* TO YOUR BROTHER, *ESMERELDA*.›

‹IT IS *NOT* VERY NICE.›

‹AND BESIDES...HE *KNOWS*.›

‹NOTHING IS GOING TO BE *OKAY*.›

‹PLEASE... PLEASE, DON'T...›

‹YOU PROMISED... YOU PROMISED I WOULD BE WITH *EDUARDO* AGAIN...›

‹SO I DID.›

‹JOIN HIM NOW.›

NO!

HK!

‹THE HUMMING-BIRD IS *ALIVE*.›

‹I NEED HER *DEAD* FOR THE SIXTH CREATION TO BEGIN.›

I CAN *KILL* HER... LET ME GO BACK...

NO.

SHE *KNOWS* NOW.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI AWAKENS, I CAN FEEL HIM.

AND HE WILL COME TO KILL ME FOR WHAT I'VE DONE.

THE GIRL, HER *SPIDER*...

...I WILL BE READY FOR ALL OF THEM.

Next: A Good Ol' Fashioned Rodeo!

"Christopher Yost is weaving a surprisingly ambitious tale that… makes good on a year's worth of story developments."
— *IGN*

THE SPIDER'S SECRETS EXPOSED!

A missile attack on the headquarters of mega-corporation Roxxon rains destruction over Houston, and Scarlet Spider finds himself in the middle of an explosive family feud — surprising even himself when he ends up defending Roxxon! But Kaine quickly sinks from his adoptive city's newest hero to Houston's most wanted when the Southwest's greatest heroes, the Rangers, come to town looking to take him out! With the Lone Star State's dedicated super-team on his tail, Kaine attempts to unravel a corporate conspiracy until his investigation unleashes an ancient terror that threatens to destroy the coastal city of Galveston! And the secrets behind Kaine's resurrection and Aracely's clouded past come to light in the face of a deadly threat from Mexico.

Collecting *Scarlet Spider #7-9, #12.1* and *#13-15* — written by Chris Yost; and illustrated by Khoi Pham, Paulo Siqueira and Neil Edwards.

MARVEL